



INDEPENDENT 35p

TUESDAY 7 NOVEMBER 1995

SECTION TWO

DAVID HOCKNEY ON HIS DRAWINGS

Britain's most popular living artist interviewed and what Conran and Quant think of him



MEDIA JOBS

Marketing and sales vacancies

EXCLUSIVE LIBERTY SHOPPING DAY

£11,000 of Liberty gift vouchers to be won plus a holiday in Thailand - see page 15

‘A man of courage and vision. He lived as a soldier and died as a soldier of peace’



United in grief: (from left) Chancellor Helmut Kohl, German President Roman Herzog, UN Secretary General Boutros-Ghali, Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak, Hillary Clinton, President Bill Clinton, Dutch Prime Minister Wim Kok, Queen Beatrix of the Netherlands and acting Israeli Prime Minister Shimon Peres. Photograph: Win McNamee/Reuters

The world's leaders gathered in Jerusalem to mourn Yitzhak Rabin

To the wail of sirens and eulogies by world leaders, Israel yesterday buried its war hero and peacemaker Yitzhak Rabin, assassinated by a fellow Jew who opposed his peace with the Palestinians.

Soldiers and statesmen sobbed as mourners ranging from US President Bill Clinton to Rabin's grand-daughter praised the prime minister who died for Middle East peace.

President Clinton and Israel's former foes, Jordan's King Hussein and Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak, said the greatest memorial for Rabin would be to continue his drive to end half a century of Arab-Israeli fighting.

“He was a man of courage, a man of vision, and he was endowed with one of the greatest virtues that any man can have. He was endowed with humility,” said King Hussein. “You lived as a soldier. You died as a soldier for peace.”

In Tel Aviv, student Yigal Amir confessed in court to shooting Rabin because he was handing back land to Palestinians. His brother Hagai Amir prepared at least one of the dumdum bullets that shattered Rabin's chest at a peace rally on Saturday, police said.

The whole of Israel stood in silent tribute for two minutes when the sirens that each year commemorate the Nazi Holocaust marked the start of the two-hour-long funeral on a Jerusalem hilltop. Seven soldiers fired three volleys over the grave of the Six Day War army commander to conclude the emotional ceremony.

Some 4,500 mourners stood beneath the pines and cypresses of the Mount Herzl National Cemetery, where Rabin's wooden coffin was lowered into a sandy grave. Only a small group of relatives and dignitaries were allowed to the graveside, where they placed earth on top of the flag-draped coffin.



God's assassin, Section Two

“I ask you, the people of Israel on behalf of my nation, that knows its own long litany of loss, from Abraham Lincoln to President Kennedy, to Martin Luther King, do not let that happen to you.”

The funeral united Israelis in grief, but the murder showed how deeply divided their militarised society is. Some blamed the climate created by right-wing extremists who have likened Rabin to a Nazi for handing over much of the West Bank and Gaza Strip, which they consider their birthright.

Settlers in the Occupied Territories condemned the killing, but some hardliners in the West Bank settlement of Kiryat Arba were unmoved. “Like every real Jew I feel very good. I feel more than good. He got what he deserved, thank God,” said resident Aric Bar-Yosef.

Leaders' tributes, pages 2, 3

Leading article, page 18

Shock defeat for Tories over MPs' earnings

Nolan triumph as backbench rebellion gives Labour victory

DONALD MACINTYRE
Political Editor

John Major and the Tory high command last night suffered a humiliating parliamentary defeat when the Commons voted 322 to 271 to compel MPs to disclose their outside income by next March, in line with Lord Nolan's report on standards in public life.

Thanks to a big Tory backbench rebellion, which delivered Labour the Commons triumph, MPs backed the most dramatic change this century in the rules which regulate their behaviour by agreeing to earnings disclosure as well as an immediate ban on “advocacy” by MPs in support of their commercial interests.

Although the decision was technically on a free vote, it flew in the face of a strong appeal from Tony Newton, the Leader



Lord Nolan: deep divisions in Commons over his report

not, ignore a “powerful mood of public anxiety” about their financial activities.

Mr Biffen, speaking with the authority of a former Leader of the Commons, and Sir Edward

of the House, not to back a Labour amendment calling for disclosure, and a clear signal last week by the Prime Minister that he was against disclosure of earnings.

Mr Major and Tony Blair, the Labour leader, did not vote last night because they were attending the funeral in Jerusalem of Yitzhak Rabin. But the Prime Minister had made clear that he supported the Tory majority on the Nolan Select Committee, which proposed the advocacy ban, although he rejected Lord

Nolan's position on disclosure.

Earlier, Sir Edward Heath

had led a ferocious counter-attack on Labour, saying that it was motivated by “a doctrine of envy and hatred”. By contrast, John Biffen, a former senior Tory minister, broke rank with Mr Major to warn MPs that they could not, and in the end would

not, ignore a “powerful mood of public anxiety” about their financial activities.

Mr Biffen pointed out that it would soon be the norm for the pay of individual company directors to be identified in company reports. Sir Richard Greenbury's committee on top pay has proposed the inclusion of directors' salaries from January 1996. This meant that they’re not happy about concealment.

Mr Biffen, in stark contrast to Sir Edward Heath said there was an irreversible trend towards transparency of earnings outside Westminster. “I cannot see the House turning away from the requirement for financial disclosure.”

Mr Biffen's intervention in the continuing row over how MPs can best defend themselves against complaints of financial “sleaze” came as the rebel Tory backbenchers voted down the recommendations of the Tory majority on the special select committee.

Mr Biffen pointed out that it

would soon be the norm for the pay of individual company directors to be identified in company reports. Sir Richard Greenbury's committee on top

pay has proposed the inclusion of directors' salaries from January 1996. This meant that what an MP got as a director would be public knowledge, but what he received as a consultant “will remain within the veil of mystery”. He added: “I tell you – you can’t hold that situation. It’s nothing to do with the decision we are taking today, but with other forces out-

side this chamber which are requiring a different approach to disclosure.”

Mr Newton said the advocacy ban – which would prevent MPs initiating debates asking questions or introducing Bills on behalf of their own commercial interests – went “significantly further” than earlier regulations of the Commons.

He insisted that the case for disclosure “fell away” if the activity itself was to be banned.

“On this as in every other matter, it is for the judgment of Members to decide,” he said.

Moving the amendment in favour of disclosure of earnings, Ann Taylor, the shadow Leader of the House, said: “There are Members on both sides of the House who resent the fact that all MPs are getting a bad name because of the activities of a few.”

Nolan debate, page 4

IN BRIEF

IRA pair face extradition Extraordinary proceedings were started yesterday in the Republic of Ireland by Britain for two IRA prisoners, Nessan Quinlan and Pearse McCauley, who broke out of Brixton prison four years ago in one of the most embarrassing breaches of security in a British jail. Page 5

US bid for Seaboard A US firm, Central and South West Corporation, launched an agreed £1.6bn bid for Seaboard and snapped up 23.9 per cent of the shares in the market. Page 20

Computer games battle The battle for hearts, minds and power supplies in the Christmas computer games market began in earnest as Sony announced its PlayStation was the fastest selling video games system ever. Page 7



COMMENT

Andrew Marr: Ulster needs a Rabin. Page 19

Teresa Gorman: Lord Mackay is right. Page 19

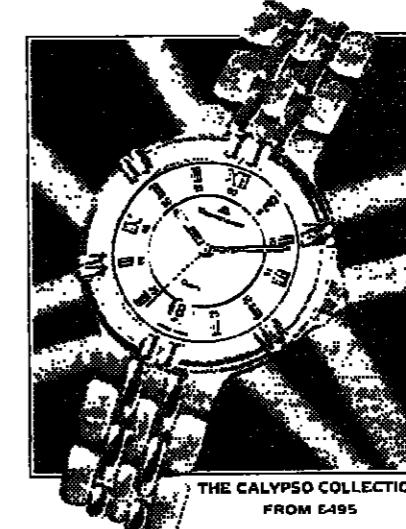
News Analysis: When historical monuments can't take the strain of the tourists. Page 17

Another View: King Arthur Pendragon says English Heritage should leave Stonehenge alone. Page 18

Leading Article: “From the shared grief of this funeral to a shared peace and economic prosperity will involve another long and turbulent march. Yitzhak Rabin’s legacy is that his countrymen have been shown the way.” Page 18

Weather: Dry and bright in south-east England, the Midlands and East Anglia. Other areas will have some drizzle but it will be bright at times. Section Two, page 21

Maurice Lacroix
OF SWITZERLAND



THE FACE OF TIME

GOLDSMITHS



WALKER & HALL

THE MARK OF A FINE JEWELLER

Retail Jeweller of the Year - Best Customer Service

Maurice Lacroix Swiss Watches, renowned for their dials of distinction are available at selected branches of the Goldsmiths Group.

one of the country's leading retail jewellers with over 100 branches nationwide.

For details of your nearest stockist call

FREE on 0800 220733

**section
ONE**

BUSINESS 20-22 COMMENT 18,19 CROSSWORD 28 GAZETTE 16
LAW REPORT 16 LEADING ARTICLES 18 LETTERS 18 NEWS 2-15
OBITUARIES 16 SHARES 23 SPORT 25-28 UNIT TRUSTS 24

**section
TWO**

ARTS 6-10 CHESS 22 CROSSWORD 22 FASHION 12,13
LIFE 4,5 LISTINGS 20,21 MEDIA 16,17 REVIEWS 10
SCIENCE 15 TELEVISION & RADIO 23,24 WEATHER 21

RABIN FUNERAL

'His name will be associated in history with the accomplishment of an unprecedented task'

Viktor Chernomyrdin



'His nobility in his personal dealings was supreme throughout'

Ezer Weizman, Israel's President



'The success of the peace process is his achievement. A hero in war and in peace'

Michael Heseltine



'There is no feeling of revenge in me, for the pain does not allow the space'

Noa Ben Artzi, granddaughter



and presidents pay tribute to a hero



Building bridges: King Hussein of Jordan delivers his eulogy in which he said Yitzhak Rabin crossed the divide to establish a legacy worthy of him

Photograph: Reuters

'It is time for all of us to speak openly of peace'

Jerusalem (AP) — Excerpts from King Hussein's eulogy at Yitzhak Rabin's funeral:

"I never thought that the moment would come like this when I would grieve the loss of a brother, a colleague and a friend, a man, a soldier who met us on the opposite side of a divide, who we respected as he respected us, a man I came to know because I realised as he did that we had to cross over the divide, establish the dialogue and strive to leave also for us a legacy that is worthy of him."

"And so he did. And so we became brothers and friends. I have never been used to standing except with you next to me, speaking of peace, speaking about dreams and hopes for generations to come that must live in peace, enjoy human dignity, come together, work together to build a better future that is our right."

"Never in all my thoughts would it occur to me that my first visit to Jerusalem in response to your invitation, the invitation of the speaker of the Knesset, the invitation of the President of Israel, would be on such an occasion."

"You lived as a soldier. You died as a soldier for peace, and I believe it is time for all of us to come out openly and to speak of peace. Not here today but for all the times to come. We belong to the camp of peace. We believe in peace. We believe that our one God wishes us to live

HUSSEIN SPEECH

in peace and wishes peace upon us. For these are his teachings from King Hussein's eulogy at Yitzhak Rabin's funeral:

"Let us not keep silent. Let our voices rise high to speak of our commitment to peace for all times to come and let us tell those who live in darkness who are the enemies of light and true faith and religion and the teachings of our one God. This is where we stand. This is our camp."

"Maybe God will bless you with the realisation that you must join it, and we pray that you will. But otherwise we are not ashamed, nor are we afraid, nor are we anything but determined to conclude the legacy for which my friend fell as did my grandfather in this very city when I was with him as but a young boy. He was a man of courage, a man of vision, and he was endowed with one of the greatest virtues that any man can have. He was endowed with humility. He had courage. He had vision, and he had a commitment to peace. And, standing here, I commit before you, before my people in Jordan, and before the world, myself to continue to do the utmost to ensure that we shall leave a similar legacy."

"When my time comes, I hope it will be like my grandfather's, and like Yitzhak Rabin's."

Student tells court why he killed 'grovelling' PM

TOVA COHEN

Reuter

Tel Aviv — The Jewish student Yigal Amir confessed in the court here yesterday to killing the Israeli Prime Minister, Yitzhak Rabin, saying: "I acted alone but maybe with God."

But police said that his brother, Hagai Amir, was an accomplice who prepared at least one of the dum Dum bullets that hit Rabin at a peace rally in Tel Aviv on Saturday. Yigal Amir said he shot the Israeli leader because he was handing over land to Palestinians. He called Rabin a groveller who was "not my prime minister".

Police told a magistrate that they were investigating if the 25-year-old law student belonged to the illegal extremist organisation known as Eyal.

"I did not commit the act to stop the peace process, because there is no such concept as the peace process; it is a process of war," Mr Amir said. "The people are indifferent to the fact that a Palestinian state is being created here."

The court ordered Mr Amir to be held for 15 days while police prepare possible charges, including premeditated murder, the attempted murder of Rabin's bodyguard and participation in an illegal organisation.

At a later hearing in Tel

KILLER'S CONFESSION

Aviv, a magistrate gave orders that Hagai Amir, also arrested on Saturday, be held for seven days.

"He (Hagai Amir) took a bullet, drilled a hole in it and turned it into a lethal bullet which causes far more damage than a regular one," a police officer told the court.

A dum Dum bullet has a cut in its point that causes it to expand on impact. Police said that one of the bullets the brother prepared was taken from Rabin's body.

Amir: His brother prepared one of the lethal bullets



Hagai Amir "was a willing accomplice in this assassination, even if he only failed to prevent the crime," the officer said.

On the day of the incident

they both sat and watched television and Hagai saw him (Yigal) leave. We believe he knew where he was going and didn't try to stop him."

An Israeli news-agency report quoted the assassin's brother as telling the judge: "I added an iron pellet to the tip of the bullet. This created a hollowness which enabled the bullet to be more accurate, and nothing else."

The man who admitted to Israel's first assassination of a prime minister sat calmly during his court appearance, his hands clasped, and flanked by two policemen.

"Before me is a suspect in one of the worse crimes ever committed in Israel, and from a public viewpoint possibly the worst committed at all times in this country," the magistrate said.

The suspect confesses to the murder of Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin ... and does not deny that he planned it in advance and did it with a clear mind."

The police said Mr Amir came out of the crowd in Tel Aviv's Kings of Israel Square and fired three shots with a

Beretta pistol. Rabin, hit in the back and stomach, died 90 minutes later.

The third bullet wounded a bodyguard.

Mr Amir, who was arrested in July during protests by Jewish settlers of the occupied West Bank against Rabin's policies, said Jewish law allowed the killing of someone who tried to give land to an enemy.

Legal sources said Mr Amir will probably face life imprisonment if convicted and his brother could receive the same sentence if charged with murder. Israel's Shin Bet secret service yesterday launched an investigation into the breakdown in security that led to Rabin's assassination.

Questions are also being asked about why Rabin was not wearing a bullet-proof vest, how bodyguards let an armed man get so close to him and whether the security agents were paying enough attention to the threat from right-wing Israeli extremists.

Aides of the French President, Jacques Chirac, said that the acting Israeli Prime Minister, Shimon Peres, told Mr Chirac during a 50-minute meeting after yesterday's funeral that elections in Palestinian autonomous territories would take place as scheduled in January.

The police said Mr Amir came out of the crowd in Tel Aviv's Kings of Israel Square and fired three shots with a

Unthinkable is now very possible'

STEPHANIE NOLEN

Jerusalem

At a bus stop at the edge of an ultra-orthodox suburb of Jerusalem four women sat staring straight ahead, the tracks of tears drying on their cheeks.

Vora Bar-el was still crying. "I never thought I would see this, I never thought there was a Jew who could kill another Jew like this," she said. "People talk about things like this. Rabin killed many people and I guess he had to expect this. But oh, it's awful."

In an empty office up the road, Yigal Shashani, 32, a medical secretary, twisted a telephone cord around and around her hands and worried for the future of Israel.

"I don't know if Peres will

continue the peace process," she said. "He's not a strong man like Rabin was."

If Shimon Peres does not keep to the timetable Mr Rabin laid out and, more importantly, force settlers out of the West Bank, then, she said, there is risk of war. The shock of Mr Rabin's death has made the once unthinkable seem very possible, she said.

Other Israelis were more confident of Mr Peres's ability to lead, although few seemed to think that, as prime minister, he would be much different from Mr Rabin, his historic rival.

"Shimon Peres has a strong heart, he can be the leader we need," said student Rachela Haba, 24.

Mr Cappaq does not feel Mr Rabin's death threatens the

fragile gains the peace process had brought the Palestinians.

"This highlights the split in Israeli society but it won't stop the peace process. Peres will have a free hand in implementing his vision of a new Middle East," he said.

Cussama Salah, 34, predicted the assassination might improve conditions in the occupied territories.

"Maybe they will do something about these extremists who do not pay any attention to the law of their country,"

Mr Salah worries, however, that without the strength of Mr Rabin the Labour party cannot win an election. The only hope for the Palestinians, he believes, is for the government to go as far as it can before they must go to the polls.

WE DON'T HAVE A STYLE
... WE HAVE AN ATTITUDE.

Lucille Lekin
Founder of Whistles
Cardmember since 1988

At. W. R. T. L. L. A. T. T. I. T. U. D. E.
(and other joints with)
That'll Do Nicely.

AMERICAN EXPRESS
3192 1011
EXPIRES 06/96
FACILITATE LEARN

Call 0800 700 444 to apply for the American Express Card.

Ringing the changes: Lord Mackay's reform Bill is to be reintroduced, but fewer couples are now taking the marriage vows.

Divorce plans survive right-wing onslaught

PATRICIA WYNN DAVIES

Political Correspondent

Proposals by Lord Mackay, the Lord Chancellor, to overhaul divorce law have emerged unscathed from an onslaught by Tory right-wingers and will be outlined as originally planned in next week's Queen's Speech.

A divorce reform Bill - which would replace the "quicke" fault-based divorce with a single ground of irretrievable breakdown of marriage after a one-year cooling-off period - has already been drafted. It is expected to begin its parliamentary passage in the House of Lords soon after the new session begins.

A Number 10 spokesman said that completion of the public-spending round at the weekend had left the entire

planned government programme unchanged. He emphasised also that the measure had John Major's personal backing: "The Government is pretty firmly in favour. The Prime Minister also believes there is a case for the Bill, not to make divorce easier - that is not the purpose."

Lord Mackay, however, has cleared only the first of a series of potential hurdles. Critics will ensure the bill has a stormy passage in both Houses, particularly when it transfers to the Commons early next year. Tory right-wingers have protested that the measure would make divorce too "easy" by reducing the current two-year period for a divorce by consent, to one year.

And it has been argued that the removal of fault would rob the marriage contract of substance.

Some critics would like to see the bill amended to retain the concept of fault, and perhaps to make couples wait two years instead of one, but a proposed emphasis on mediation to solve disputes over children and finances would be retained.

The one-year period would not begin to run until those seeking the divorce had attended a compulsory interview with a panel of experts to explore the options of mediation, and to receive information about the consequences of the break-up, such as the impact of the Child Support Agency.

Lord Mackay has argued that the "quicke" divorce amounts to divorce on demand, in which the exchange of acrimonious allegations harms children. The one-year period of reflection would, however,

make couples consider more carefully the consequences of their actions. The Lord Chancellor is also expected to emphasise plans for a lengthy pilot period.

Roger Gale, the Tory MP for Thanet North who helped mobilise opinion against the now shelved Family Homes and Domestic Violence Bill, suggested yesterday that the Bill could, in fact, make divorce harder. But Lady Olga Maitland, Tory MP for Sutton & Cheam, pledged to fight the Bill as it stands.

The Conservative Party, she said, was supposed to be the party of the family, yet could be seen to be helping the break-up of family life. "I would like to believe that the Lord Chancellor is willing to make amendments," she said. "No-fault divorces are not acceptable."



Religious minority: Rev Bill Raines at the Church of the Holy Innocents, Fallowfield, Manchester. Photograph: Newsteam

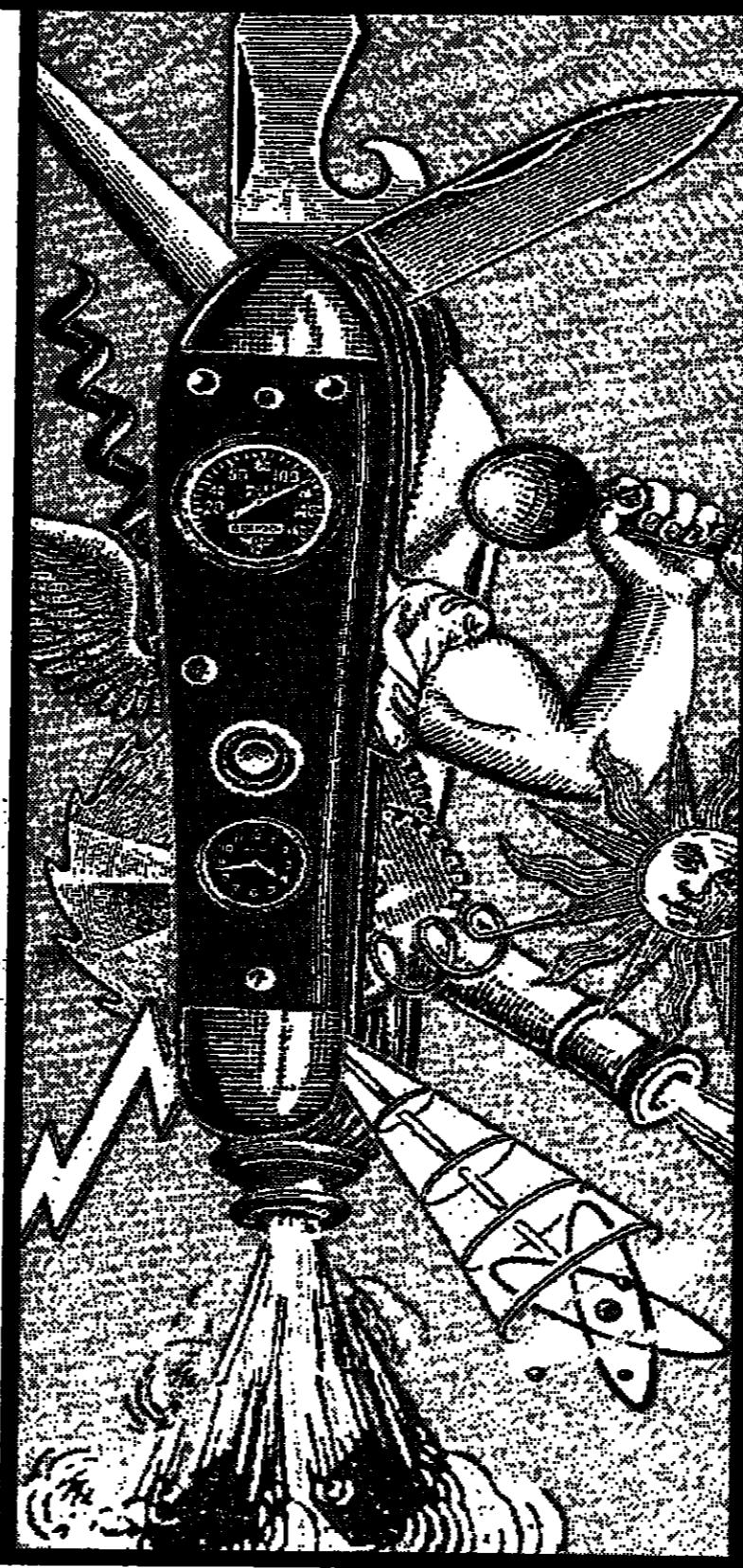
All
purpose
is now
all
powerful.

DIGITAL VENTURIS. NOW RUNNING WITH 120 MHZ PENTIUM® PROCESSORS

The complete desktop family of quality-engineered Digital PCs now comes packed with Pentium® technology. What's more our PCs are priced at the level of many of our competitors' less powerful machines. The new Digital Venturis and Celebris PCs are now supplied with your choice of five different Pentium® chips - from 75 through to 120 MHz - not to mention PCI/ISA bus, advanced power management and Plug and Play capabilities. Yet for all their power, the entry-



level Digital Venturis and power-user's Celebris desktop PCs remain the easiest machines to set up and integrate into your network, and maintenance is a breeze. Discover how Digital



brings unprecedented PC power and speed to every business solution.

To find out more please check the Digital PC internet address: <http://www.pc.digital.com> or telephone 0345 227 228.



pentium®
PROCESSOR

digital™
PC

© Digital Equipment 1995. Digital and the Digital Logo are trademarks of Digital Equipment Corporation. The Intel Inside and Pentium Processor Logos are trademarks of Intel Corporation.

Church weddings going out of style

ANDREW BROWN

Religious Affairs Correspondent

There are many parishes in England where church weddings hardly ever take place. Inner-city depravity is not the only possible reason.

The Church of Holy Innocents, in Fallowfield, Manchester, had only four weddings last year, but the priest in charge, Rev Bill Raines, says that this is because the large,

transient, student population prefer to get married at home. Other churches, he says, tend to be avoided just because they are ugly; another category sees few marriages because they serve inner-city estates full of single parents.

The Bishop of Liverpool, Right Rev David Sheppard, told the BBC Radio 4 Today programme that he had an inner-city parish in his diocese where only one couple was married last year.

He declined to identify it, but his press officer, Rev Paul Dawson, said that in his own previous

parish, in Warrington, there had been just two weddings a year, because it served a new housing development to which people moved only after they had children. This was a prosperous parish, though. "You're looking at two BMWs up the drive," he said.

For the last 10 years, about one-third of all marriages in England have been conducted in Anglican churches and about half are conducted in register offices.

As the total number of marriages has declined, from 323,000 in 1982 to 295,000 in 1992 - the last year for which Church of England figures are available - so has the number of Church of England weddings fallen, from about 110,000 to about 97,000.

However, there are clearly other distorting factors.

Pretty country churches will perhaps have more weddings than regular churchgoers, and fashionable London churches, where a marriage makes a social statement, are also over-subscribed.

Algerians lured by freedom of expression

MARY BRAID examines French allegations that political refugees are really terrorists

tributed *Al Ansar*, an underground pamphlet produced secretly in London, calling for a holy war, and thought to have links with the militant Armed Islamic Group (GIA), which has claimed responsibility for most of the French attacks.

But the growth of the community, which is concentrated in London, began to develop in the 1960s and early 1970s when middle-class Algerians, encouraged by their government, came to Britain to study. Many returned to become top politicians, academics and businessmen but some, impressed by the freedoms and opportunities in Britain, stayed on or returned later with families to settle.

But the growth of the community has been most marked since 1992, when the Algerian army halted the democratic advance of the Islamic Salvation Front. While those persecuted either by the military-backed government or Islamic fundamentalists fled to Britain, those studying here have tried, both legally and illegally, to stay and avoid military service.

Yesterday Saad Djebbar, a leading Algerian lawyer, who has lived in Britain for two decades, insisted that the vast majority of Algerians in Britain were opposed to violence - and very few were even politically active.

The French government last week claimed that London had become a haven for exiles plotting the assassination of intellectuals, politicians and journalists in Algeria. Some commentators admit Islamic terrorists may be hiding behind apparently bona fide welfare groups in Britain. But Mr Djebbar warned that the British Government should beware of French accusations about Algerians living in Britain, some of whom he claims have been previously been unjustly treated by the French.

"Algerians who moved to Britain were impressed by the fact that your police don't wear guns and privacy is respected. The overwhelming majority of people have fled violence and don't want to see it repeated here or anywhere else." He dismissed as a minority the Algerian exiles who print and dis-

tributed pamphlets.

Police were yesterday given

an extra 48 hours to continue questioning an Algerian ex-

terrorist who is suspected of being the mastermind behind recent terrorist bombings in France.

Abdelkader Benouis, alias Abou Fares, had been under surveillance by Special Branch and MI5 for some time.

The French authorities are

preparing to ask for the extra-

dition of Mr Benouis, who is

understood to have had an

asylum application rejected

already and is appealing.

sony a
nes war:
Boy O
is jail
for ra
Poll backs
Welsh sta

Sony and Sega lock consoles for bit of virtual combat

Games war: Rivals target lucrative Christmas sales

JOJO MOYES

The battle for the hearts, minds and power supplies of the lucrative Christmas computer games market began in earnest yesterday, as Sony announced its PlayStation was the fastest-selling video games system ever.

The Japanese consumer electronics company said that 50,000 units of the new generation 32-bit system had been sold since its launch five weeks ago. It said that in some UK stores the system, promoted as "Sony's most important product since the Walkman", sold out within days.

Sega, which has dominated the UK market, is said to have sold 50,000 of its rival 32-bit Saturn games system since its launch this summer, although it is not disclosing sales.

Sony has just reduced the price of Saturn by £100 to £299, although Noel Dardis, marketing director of Sega UK, denied that this was to match PlayStation's £299 price tag.

"That's what Sony would

have you believe," he said yesterday. "The reality is that after the initial batch was manufactured the success of Saturn means that we've been able to make economies of scale."

The two CD-based games systems are said to be 500 times (Sony) or 900 times (Sega) more powerful than the 16-bit systems of most existing games systems, with a "quantum leap" in speed and graphics quality.

Nintendo, Sega's traditional rival, is considered to have temporarily "dropped out" of the equation. It has yet to launch its rival, Ultra-64, developed in conjunction with Silicon Graphics, the US computer animation company.

The new launches come after research published in August by Durlacher Multimedia, the stockbrokers, suggested that British sales of video games would collapse this year to less than one-third of 1993 levels.

The hefty price of the systems, which require games at about £50 each, might not be



Game on: Sony's PlayStation game system is said to have sold 50,000 units in five weeks, challenging Sega's Saturn. Photograph: Edward Webb

Boy of 14 is jailed for rape

A 14-year-old boy who raped a girl of 12 and indecently assaulted her friend as they returned from a picnic in a country park was yesterday sentenced to seven years' detention.

Manchester Crown Court was told that the boy - who cannot be named for legal reasons - wore a balaclava mask and brandished a knife when he waylaid the two girls in the Waterworks Country Park at Oldham, Greater Manchester.

The boy had pleaded guilty to rape and indecent assault on 31 May this year. He admitted kidnapping both girls on the same date: kidnapping two other girls last March and indecently assaulting them; and indecently assaulting a girl, 11, the day before the rape.

The court heard how the two double attacks involved the boy wearing a balaclava and brandishing a knife. Both were shown in court.

Michael Shorrock QC, for the prosecution, told the court all the incidents took place in the same area. In the most serious, two 12-year-old girls were on their school holidays.

"They decided to go for a picnic. They set off shortly after midday on their bicycles," Mr Shorrock said. "When they finished their picnic, they played for a bit then started to make their way back pushing their bikes.

"As they approached the road, they were confronted by the defendant. They didn't know who

he was. He was wearing a black balaclava pulled over his face. He produced a knife and threatened the girls. He made them go up a path to a secluded spot."

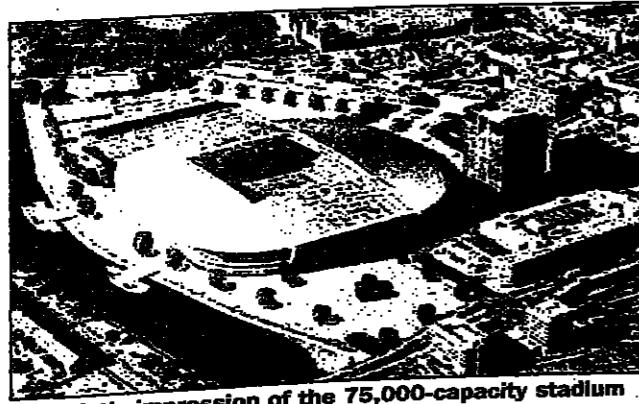
Mr Shorrock said the boy forced both girls to undress, made them lie on the ground and tied them to a tree with their shoe laces. The girls later told police that they were blindfolded, gagged and hit.

"The girls managed to free themselves. They were seen, both naked and very distressed, by two passers-by," Mr Shorrock said. The attack on 19 March involved two girls, 12 and 11, who were playing in a disused quarry. They saw a boy coming towards them and ran towards a main road.

"Before they could get there the boy caught up with them. By this time he had a balaclava covering his face," Mr Shorrock said. He produced a knife and forced the girls to go with him to a secluded spot where he indecently assaulted them. When one girl started screaming the boy threatened her with his knife and said: "Do you want to die?"

The attack ended when a horse rider appeared.

The indecent assault on 30 May took place when the boy approached children playing in an air-raid shelter and indecently assaulted a girl, 11. Her mother contacted the police when she heard of the double attack the following day.



Poll backs £104m Welsh stadium

The building of a Welsh national stadium with £49m of lottery money enjoys massive public support in the principality, it was claimed yesterday.

The new 75,000-capacity covered venue would cost £104m overall and play host to the Rugby Union World Cup finals, which will be held in 1999.

National Lottery money would be channelled through the Millennium Commission as part of celebrations to mark 2000. The rest would be raised privately.

According to a survey commissioned by the bid's organisers, the Welsh Rugby Union, seven out of 10 Welsh people support the scheme in preference to a rival bid to develop the Cardiff Bay Opera House.

The new hi-tech arena, built on the site of Cardiff Arms Park, would be a so-called "third generation" stadium which could also host other entertainments. Bid organisers who commissioned the MORI poll unveiled

their revised plan yesterday. A previous bid had failed to incorporate enough of the existing structure and plans to develop the nearby Cardiff Athletic venue had been shelved, the project's designer said.

Russell Goodway, leader of South Glamorgan and Cardiff County Council, which backed the bid, hailed the project as the people's choice which had now met the requirements of the commission.

He said: "Our next step is to take the people's choice back to the commission next week with the revised bid highlighting its huge economic, cultural and social regeneration opportunities for Cardiff and Wales."

While the Department of National Heritage has not ruled out accepting both schemes under the Millennium scheme, it is thought highly unlikely that both will be successful.

The stadium bid is due to be presented to the commission on 15 November.



THE OLD SMITHY AT BATHWORTH

MANY THINGS HAVE GONE FOR A BURTON THESE DAYS - BUT THANKFULLY NOT IN BURTON. MARSTON'S PEDIGREE REMAINS THE GOLDEN PINT IT WAS IN GOOD OLD JOHN MARSTON'S DAY, BECAUSE IT'S THE ONLY BEER STILL BREWED IN WOODEN CASKS.

THANK HEAVENS SOME THINGS ARE WHAT THEY USED TO BE



26

S

F

news

Farmer who kicked up a stink must pay the price

A farmer protested about alleged mismanagement of his bank account by driving a muck-spreader into a city centre and spraying a NatWest branch with four tonnes of foul-smelling cow manure, a court was told yesterday.

David Cannon, 66, blasted the slurry over the branch, in Newcastle upon Tyne, in a gesture which led to a two-week clean-up by stonemasons.

Cannon had a five-year battle with the bank, which he claimed had mismanaged his accounts, costing him more than £100,000 and forcing him to sell his prize-winning herd of Ayrshire cows at his farm, near Ponteland, Northumberland.

After he started spraying the building, in Moseley Street, Newcastle, passers-by had to dive for cover.

Bank manager Alan Bell told Newcastle magistrates: "There was a large deposit of manure sprayed up the walls to considerable height and lying in a heap outside the door.

"We had to have scaffolding



David Cannon: His frustration with NatWest boiled over

erected and the stonework professionally cleaned because the matter had leaked into the sandstone. The effluent was too deep to walk into the bank unless you had waders on."

Cannon was convicted of criminal damage but was given a conditional discharge by magistrates, who ordered him to pay £2,000 compensation, although NatWest had claimed £4,500.

The farmer earlier told the court he did not know the bank branch was a listed building. He added: "Nobody knows the frustration we've had because of the bank. There's plenty of people who would have ended up in the nuthouse or been driven to suicide."

Three years ago, Cannon was ordered to pay £1,138 compensation to Castle Morpeth Council, Northumberland, for spraying their offices with slurry after being refused planning permission to build a bungalow.

Cannon, who is suing NatWest through the civil courts, alleging negligence over the handling of his affairs, said after yesterday's hearing: "I have no regrets about what I did. After all, they dropped me in the shit."

"I would do the same every morning if I could keep myself out of jail. It doesn't take any bottle to drive a tractor into town and start the muck-spreader. "I was driven to it by sheer frustration. It was a case of the little man being hammered by a big institution and I couldn't take any more."



Dirty protest: David Cannon distributing the contents of his muck-spreader at the bank in Newcastle upon Tyne

Photograph: Mark Runnacles

COMPETITIVE?

INVEST

IN

A

BIG

To stay one jump ahead of the competition more and more companies are prepared to get their hands dirty.

Using bacteria to convert waste into saleable by-products. Employing micro-organisms to get rid of bad smells. Exploiting bugs to beat diseases at their own game.

Biotechnology, or the application of biology to industrial processes, offers better and cheaper ways of doing things. And more.

It offers safer, cleaner and more profitable solutions to an enormous variety of industrial problems.

It's something that brewers and cheesemakers have known for hundreds of years.

And something that pharmaceutical and diagnostic companies haven't been slow to exploit.

But it's something that thousands of other companies in dozens of other industries need to wake up to now if they're going to remain competitive.

That's why the DTI is launching the Biotechnology Means Business Initiative and committing millions to help companies reap the benefits.

The BMB Helpline gives you free confidential access to over one hundred experts. Through one of these you'll be able to explore exactly how your company can benefit.

And it has details of two thousand British suppliers of biotechnology products, processes and services to help you use the expert's recommendations to your best advantage.

There's also a nationwide programme of Biotechnology Means Business seminars, workshops and helpful literature.

For details and for your introductory literature pack, clip the coupon or call the BMB Helpline now, and listen to what the rest of the industry will be up to tomorrow.

BMB HELPLINE
0800 432100

Please send me more information:
Name _____
Title _____
Company _____
Business type _____
Number of employees _____
Address _____
Postcode _____
Tel no. _____ IND3
Please return to:
BMB Initiative, PO Box 83, Didcot, Oxon OX11 0TJ.

BMB
BIOTECHNOLOGY
MEANS
BUSINESS
INITIATIVE

dti

Top firms to grant EU's 12 weeks of child leave

BARRIE CLEMENT
Labour Editor

Some of the country's biggest employers are expected to offer three months' parental leave under a European deal agreed last night.

Many of the UK companies with plants on the continent are likely to grant their British workers the time-off which can be taken by both parents at any time during a child's early development. It will come on top of maternity leave, may be taken in instalments and will apply equally to full and part-timers.

There will also be a right to leave to care for sick relatives, although the maximum time allowed will be decided country-by-country.

The agreement was signed yesterday by continental employers and union leaders – the so-called "social partners" – and under the Maastricht treaty will eventually become law.

Because of Britain's "opt out" from the accord, UK companies do not have to apply the deal but on recent evidence many are expected to do so.

Despite the Government's refusal to sign the treaty's social chapter, ministers have found that an increasing number of British companies are falling into line with its provisions.

Eight big companies have already included their British workers on European works councils which act as a channel for union representation and company information. Another nine are in the pipeline. Among the top companies already adopting the policy are

United Biscuits, Pilkington, Courtaulds and NatWest.

Union representatives on the councils will insist British staff are included in the leave entitlements and senior managers will be under pressure to accede.

Senior officials of the TUC were at yesterday's meeting together with representatives of UNICE and CEEP, respectively private and public sector employers' organisations. Delegates from the CBI were present as observers. British employers' leaders back the Government's opt out.

No agreement could be struck yesterday on who should pay for the new entitlements, employers or each state's social security system.

The decision on parental leave – the first among the social partners under the treaty – will now be passed to the Council of Ministers which is scheduled to agree the details of the policy before the end of the year. Britain will not be represented because of the opt out.

A CBI spokeswoman said the organisation was more of a "non-voting participant" at yesterday's talks but it still opposed the Maastricht provisions.

A spokesman for the TUC said it would be the first time British workers would be given rights to family leave other than for maternity.

He estimated that at least three million employees worked for British firms which will introduce parental leave in their continental operations. "British unions will be pressing for workers in this country to have the same rights."

DAILY POEM

Hymn to a Broken Marriage

By Paul Durcan

Dear Nessa – Now that our marriage is over
I would like you to know that, if I could put back the clock
Fifteen years to the cold March day of our wedding,
I would wed you again and, if that marriage also broke,
I would wed you yet again and, if it a third time broke,
Wed you again, and again, and again, and again;
If you would have me which, of course, you would not.
For even you – in spite of your patience and your innocence
(Strange characteristics in an age such as our own) –
Even you require to shake off the addiction of romantic love
And seek instead, the herbal remedy of a sane affection
In which are mixed in profuse and fair proportion
Loverliness, brotherliness, fatherliness;
A sane man could not espouse a more faithful friend than you.

Paul Durcan was born in Dublin in 1944 and studied archaeology and medieval history at University College, Cork. His first collection, *O'Weston in the Light of Asia Minor* appeared in 1975. Since then 13 collections have followed, including *The Berlin Wall Cafe*, from which this poem is taken, and which has recently been reissued by Harvill. It includes the impressive and brave series of poems about the breakup of his marriage that forged his reputation in 1985.

CAR INSURANCE

looking for the
lowest
premium?

PHONE
FREE



Backed by one of the UK's leading insurers covering over 1.5 million motorists

Former
top hos
over Do
test blu

Perform

Women sue top hospital over Down's test blunder

GLENDY COOPER

Two women are suing a pioneering hospital after a mix-up in which a pregnant patient had her healthy baby aborted, having been told wrongly that it had Down's Syndrome.

Her test results were mixed up with those of 28-year-old Michelle Woods, who was told she was carrying a healthy boy, when in fact her baby was a Down's Syndrome girl. Ms Woods also had an abortion.

The mistake happened at the world-famous Addenbrooke's Hospital in Cambridge, which has featured in BBC TV's *Hospital Watch* and is known as a pioneering transplant hospital.

Addenbrooke's has accepted it was a case of human error. A letter of apology has been sent to both women and extra checks have been introduced to prevent such mistakes happening again.

Chris Coe, Head of Communications at Addenbrooke's, said yesterday that he believed both women were taking legal action. It is likely the matter will be settled out of court.

The mix-up occurred in a laboratory, when two test samples were wrongly labelled – a simple error, but one with serious consequences for the two families. The mistake was discovered on 4 September.

Both women were patients at West Suffolk Hospital, whose samples were sent in Addenbrooke's regional genetics laboratory to be tested for Down's Syndrome. The woman who lost the healthy baby has not been identified.

A statement from Addenbrooke's said: "An error in labelling samples led to one of these patients being incorrectly informed that her baby had

Down's Syndrome, and she subsequently terminated her pregnancy."

Routine tests on the aborted foetus of the healthy baby confirmed that it did not have Down's Syndrome.

The statement added that the other patient, Ms Woods, was wrongly informed that her baby was healthy, but was told of the mistake by her consultant while still in the early days of pregnancy, and was therefore still able to make choices about her unborn baby's future.

A subsequent internal inquiry revealed that the two patients' samples had interchanged labels, and human error was found to be the cause of this mistake," said the statement.

Ms Woods, from Thetford, Norfolk, told the *Today* newspaper: "I feel sorry for the other lady because she suffered much more. If she hadn't had the termination she would have had a perfect baby."

Two inquiries were held into the tragedy in September. One was an internal investigation and the other an external one by a doctor in charge of a similar laboratory elsewhere.

Because of the number of people working in the laboratory and the large number of samples they dealt with it was impossible to say who was individually responsible for the mistake. Procedures have since been tightened up and extra checks introduced.

Professor Martin Bobrow, Clinical Director of Medical Genetics at Addenbrooke's, said: "We have offered an unqualified apology to these two families. My staff are devastated that such a mistake, which has never happened here before, could have occurred."



Star turn: Yelana Pankova of the Kirov Ballet rehearses her role of Odette in Swan Lake for aspiring dancers in Battersea Park, south-west London, yesterday. Photograph: Geraint Lewis

Setback for Carey over 'unsackable' priests

ANDREW BROWN
Religious Affairs Correspondent

The ambition of the Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr George Carey, to reshape the Church of England into a modern organisation has been dealt a blow by the decision of a working party to retain the "freehold" system which makes most priests unsackable without criminal

proceedings. The Church's General Synod, meeting for the first time since elections replaced about half of its membership, will hear at the end of November that the working party on clergy conditions of service which has been studying the freehold has recommended that it be preserved.

The working party, whose members included Dr David

Hope, then bishop of London, and now Archbishop-elect of York, concluded that "The majority opinion in the church seems to be that improving clergy conditions of service in ways which would strengthen the confidence and sense of security of the clergy ... is essential before further consideration could be given to abolishing or amending the ecclesiastical

freehold." This conclusion represents a widespread distrust of bishops among the clergy, and dissatisfaction with the present state of disciplinary procedures in the Church. The "freehold is felt to be a defence against the overweening power of bishops", the synod's Secretary General, Phillip Mayer, said. The new synod will spend an afternoon debating the second

part of Dr Carey's plan for church reform: the report of the Turnbull Commission, which recommended creating a central body to manage planning and strategy for the Church.

This proposal for a "National Council" which would take over the functions of the General Synod's more important committees, has been attacked as handing too much power to the arch-

bishops, who will appoint more than half of its membership.

The synod will debate the report on family life, *Something to Celebrate*, attacked for being insufficiently robust in its defence of Christian marriage. This criticism has been partly defused by republishing a report on marriage from the 1959 Lambeth

Council, which urges Christian families to pray together.



Performance seen with fresh eyes

For some, the true measure of performance is how fast a car goes. We believe, however, that the real test of how a car performs is how it feels to drive. This is certainly the

case with the new Mercedes E-class. It has the most aerodynamic body we've ever built. The best in its class. In fact for the driver, it will mean much better road holding, greater stability and

less noise. (Incidentally, it also means a significantly improved performance at the petrol station.)

The ride is improved. We have developed a new double wishbone

suspension at the front and refined the independent multi-link suspension at the rear.

It also has a new electronic traction system called ETS. This allows you to drive on surfaces as different as ice and tarmac simultaneously without

any loss of traction at all.

Its environmental performance is improved as well. A new catalytic converter means up to 45% less emissions than previous models.

However, we believe the best way to see how the new Mercedes E-class

performs is to see it in action. To do that, or if you would like more information, simply call us on 0181 518 9088.



The new Mercedes E-class. Engineering seen with fresh eyes.

Police deal: Tapes reveal agreement aimed at trying to trap Warrington gasworks bomber when 'known' for criminal activities

IRA convict's wife recruited as informer

STEVE BOGGAN

The wife of one of the Warrington gasworks bombers was recruited by police 15 years ago to spy on her husband as part of efforts to get him behind bars.

Tape recordings received by the *Independent* show that Audrey Kinsella passed on information about her husband, John, as part of a deal struck with police after she was arrested for setting fire to a former boyfriend's home.

Mrs Kinsella, 46, says she gave information on her husband to get a charge of arson reduced to criminal damage. However, she warned him and provided false intelligence.

The officer who ran her as an informant under the code name "Sullivan" was former Detective Sergeant Joe McAleese. He has confirmed there was a deal, struck after Mrs Kinsella offered to inform for cash.

At the time, Kinsella, 51, was suspected of handling the proceeds of one of Nottingham's largest jewellery thefts. He is serving 16 years for storing a bag full of explosives for the IRA cell that blew up the Warrington gasworks in 1993, but he has always claimed he did not know what was in the bag.

Mr McAleese said last week an arson charge against Mrs Kinsella was never likely because damage to the former boyfriend's home was so slight. However, he said his impression that arson was being considered would have improved the bargaining position of detectives.

"The offer to inform on John Kinsella was her idea, not ours," he said. "At the time, she wanted to leave him and, in order to do that, she needed money. I said okay, help us and you'll get money. My actions were cleared at every stage by my senior officers."

On the tape, Mrs Kinsella offers to "pinch" her husband's diary, and adds: "But under one thing – that I know for definite that the charge will be dropped." Mr McAleese responds: "You do that and I'll bring you right to the gaffer. How's that? Saturday, I'll bring you to the man, the boss man."

The matter of a charge being dropped is mentioned in two telephone conversations with

Mr McAleese secretly recorded by the Kinsellas. Mrs Kinsella was never paid. She was subsequently charged with criminal damage and fined £95.

The operation, which lasted several months, resulted in no valuable information being passed to the police. Mrs Kinsella said she told her husband of the deal as soon as she was released by police.

Although the existence of the operation shows a determination on the part of the police to imprison Kinsella in the early 1980s, it is unlikely to help him in his campaign to be freed.

A former detective inspector told the *Independent* that the force may have been over zealous at times in trying to put him away at the time but only because his criminality warranted it. Kinsella was well-known to the police but had a knack of avoiding convictions according to his wife.

In 1980, he received compensation after being held overnight on suspicion of a robbery he did not commit – his alibi was a police officer with whom he was drinking.

Kinsella continued to attract police attention on a regular basis throughout the 1980s without ever being charged. In 1992 he pleaded guilty to being in possession of a CS gas canister during a pub brawl. He said he had been delivering it to a blind neighbour for protection.

According to Mr McAleese, an order went out in 1980 telling officers to back off Kinsella. However, there has never been any suggestion that he had any efforts to lock him up extended to the Warrington gasworks operation. He was arrested because his nephew, Denis Kinsella, was caught at the scene and linked him to the crime.

He has also never argued that he did not hide the bag, containing Semtex, guns and ammunition. The main plank of his argument is that, because he was told the items were stolen goods which were sealed in bin liners, he did not know he was hiding explosives.

Supporters point to the fact he buried the bag underneath a regular bonfire site in an attempt as proof he must have been ignorant of its contents.



Spy ring: former detective Sergeant Joe McAleese, left, Audrey and John Kinsella, top, and the aftermath of the Warrington gasworks blast, above



THE INDEPENDENT
SATURDAY 4 NOVEMBER 1995
Hunt for IRA gasworks bomber after PC is shot

Insight into shady world of a detective's grass

Tape recorded conversations between Audrey Kinsella and former Detective Sergeant Joe McAleese provide a fascinating insight into how officers gathered information against him.

One conversation runs: Audrey Kinsella: "I am phoning you up to tell you I could get [John's] diary. I could pinch it from his top pocket because he puts it in there for two to three days at a time. I don't think he would know if I pinched it. I could bring it down Friday or Saturday."

Joe McAleese: "Excellent, smashing."

AK: "But, under one thing. That I know for definite that the charge will be dropped."

JM: "You do that and I'll bring you right to the gaffer, how's that? Saturday ... I'll take you to the man, the boss man."

Later, after the diary has been smuggled to Mr McAleese, he calls Mrs Kinsella to arrange for its return.

JM: "Any time you want to collect, it [the diary] is in an envelope."

AK: "I can't get down because of the kids."

JM: "Oh, shit. I'm up in Mansfield ..."

AK: "Oh, God."

Mr McAleese subsequently arranged for other officers hand over the diary at a pub, but she wanted assurances about her charge.

AK: "What about my charge now that you've had that?"

JM: "I'll see my gaffer. Don't worry about that ... The gaffer said that to me anyway, I know he said that if you start coming across, everything would be okay. My boss doesn't lie ... That's for sure."

Tributes pour in for 'a good friend'

The worlds of showbusiness and politics yesterday paid glowing tribute to the Yes, *Yes Minister* star Paul Eddington, who has died after a brave battle against skin cancer.

Baroness Thatcher, who as

Prime Minister enjoyed the show so much that she made him a CBE in 1987, said: "Paul Eddington was an essential part of that magnificent team of actors who brought Anthony Jay and Jonathan Lynn's superb scripts to life, and who made *Yes Minister* and *Yes Prime Minister* such an enormous success."

Eddington, 68, died at his London home on Saturday night, surrounded by his wife Patricia and their four children, from a rare form of skin cancer, which had disfigured his face with dark blotches.

His co-star Nigel Hawthorne, who played scheming civil servant Sir Humphrey to Eddington's bumbling politician Jim Hacker, paid a moving tribute to "my good friend Paul".

He said: "Firstly, he was the bravest man I ever met; he never seemed to complain about his poor health, and he had been ill for many years, but always bore it with dignity and humour."

Eddington had suffered from skin cancer for 40 years, calling it "a thorough nuisance", but was always a hard-working actor even though national fame in *The Good Life* came late – he was 47 when it began. It went

nature when we were working."

Yes Minister co-star Derek Fowlds told BBC Radio 5 Live: "He was a great actor and he has shown such strength and courage over the last 10 years ... He was greatly loved."

Penelope Keith and Richard Briers, who starred with him in the television comedy *The Good Life*, remembered him as a brave man and a fine actor.

Miss Keith, who played his screen wife Margo, told Radio 5 Live: "It is a very sad day for many people who enjoyed his work so much on the television, but especially for lots of us who were very close friends."

"I first met Paul when we started *The Good Life* 20 years ago ... we laughed so much. When I think of Paul I shall remember his chuckle," said Briers.

Miss Keith said: "I don't

think I've known a more smashing bloke in all my years in showbusiness. He always dealt with his problems with humour and tenacity."

Fellow Garrick Club member Derek Nimmo also paid tribute to Eddington's sense of humour, saying his attitude to his fellow actors reflected his personal and professional life.

"He also said: "There's a stigma attached to one's appearance. People are reluctant to shake hands with you if they see you festering, and you can understand it." But he carried on working and only recently played Justice Shallow in a BBC production of *Henry IV*.

Sydney Lotterby, producer of *Yes Minister* and *Yes Prime Minister*, said: "Paul was a dedicated man to his profession and beliefs, was a sensitive, self-facing actor whose unselfish attitude to his fellow actors reflected his personal and professional life."

"He also said: "There's a stigma attached to one's appearance. People are reluctant to shake hands with you if they see you festering, and you can understand it." But he carried on working and only recently played Justice Shallow in a BBC production of *Henry IV*.

"He also said: "There's a stigma attached to one's appearance. People are reluctant to shake hands with you if they see you festering, and you can understand it." But he carried on working and only recently played Justice Shallow in a BBC production of *Henry IV*.

"He also said: "There's a stigma attached to one's appearance. People are reluctant to shake hands with you if they see you festering, and you can understand it." But he carried on working and only recently played Justice Shallow in a BBC production of *Henry IV*.

"He also said: "There's a stigma attached to one's appearance. People are reluctant to shake hands with you if they see you festering, and you can understand it." But he carried on working and only recently played Justice Shallow in a BBC production of *Henry IV*.

"He also said: "There's a stigma attached to one's appearance. People are reluctant to shake hands with you if they see you festering, and you can understand it." But he carried on working and only recently played Justice Shallow in a BBC production of *Henry IV*.

"He also said: "There's a stigma attached to one's appearance. People are reluctant to shake hands with you if they see you festering, and you can understand it." But he carried on working and only recently played Justice Shallow in a BBC production of *Henry IV*.

"He also said: "There's a stigma attached to one's appearance. People are reluctant to shake hands with you if they see you festering, and you can understand it." But he carried on working and only recently played Justice Shallow in a BBC production of *Henry IV*.

"He also said: "There's a stigma attached to one's appearance. People are reluctant to shake hands with you if they see you festering, and you can understand it." But he carried on working and only recently played Justice Shallow in a BBC production of *Henry IV*.

"He also said: "There's a stigma attached to one's appearance. People are reluctant to shake hands with you if they see you festering, and you can understand it." But he carried on working and only recently played Justice Shallow in a BBC production of *Henry IV*.

"He also said: "There's a stigma attached to one's appearance. People are reluctant to shake hands with you if they see you festering, and you can understand it." But he carried on working and only recently played Justice Shallow in a BBC production of *Henry IV*.

"He also said: "There's a stigma attached to one's appearance. People are reluctant to shake hands with you if they see you festering, and you can understand it." But he carried on working and only recently played Justice Shallow in a BBC production of *Henry IV*.

"He also said: "There's a stigma attached to one's appearance. People are reluctant to shake hands with you if they see you festering, and you can understand it." But he carried on working and only recently played Justice Shallow in a BBC production of *Henry IV*.

"He also said: "There's a stigma attached to one's appearance. People are reluctant to shake hands with you if they see you festering, and you can understand it." But he carried on working and only recently played Justice Shallow in a BBC production of *Henry IV*.

"He also said: "There's a stigma attached to one's appearance. People are reluctant to shake hands with you if they see you festering, and you can understand it." But he carried on working and only recently played Justice Shallow in a BBC production of *Henry IV*.

"He also said: "There's a stigma attached to one's appearance. People are reluctant to shake hands with you if they see you festering, and you can understand it." But he carried on working and only recently played Justice Shallow in a BBC production of *Henry IV*.

"He also said: "There's a stigma attached to one's appearance. People are reluctant to shake hands with you if they see you festering, and you can understand it." But he carried on working and only recently played Justice Shallow in a BBC production of *Henry IV*.

"He also said: "There's a stigma attached to one's appearance. People are reluctant to shake hands with you if they see you festering, and you can understand it." But he carried on working and only recently played Justice Shallow in a BBC production of *Henry IV*.

"He also said: "There's a stigma attached to one's appearance. People are reluctant to shake hands with you if they see you festering, and you can understand it." But he carried on working and only recently played Justice Shallow in a BBC production of *Henry IV*.

"He also said: "There's a stigma attached to one's appearance. People are reluctant to shake hands with you if they see you festering, and you can understand it." But he carried on working and only recently played Justice Shallow in a BBC production of *Henry IV*.

"He also said: "There's a stigma attached to one's appearance. People are reluctant to shake hands with you if they see you festering, and you can understand it." But he carried on working and only recently played Justice Shallow in a BBC production of *Henry IV*.

"He also said: "There's a stigma attached to one's appearance. People are reluctant to shake hands with you if they see you festering, and you can understand it." But he carried on working and only recently played Justice Shallow in a BBC production of *Henry IV*.

"He also said: "There's a stigma attached to one's appearance. People are reluctant to shake hands with you if they see you festering, and you can understand it." But he carried on working and only recently played Justice Shallow in a BBC production of *Henry IV*.

"He also said: "There's a stigma attached to one's appearance. People are reluctant to shake hands with you if they see you festering, and you can understand it." But he carried on working and only recently played Justice Shallow in a BBC production of *Henry IV*.

"He also said: "There's a stigma attached to one's appearance. People are reluctant to shake hands with you if they see you festering, and you can understand it." But he carried on working and only recently played Justice Shallow in a BBC production of *Henry IV*.

"He also said: "There's a stigma attached to one's appearance. People are reluctant to shake hands with you if they see you festering, and you can understand it." But he carried on working and only recently played Justice Shallow in a BBC production of *Henry IV*.

"He also said: "There's a stigma attached to one's appearance. People are reluctant to shake hands with you if they see you festering, and you can understand it." But he carried on working and only recently played Justice Shallow in a BBC production of *Henry IV*.

"He also said: "There's a stigma attached to one's appearance. People are reluctant to shake hands with you if they see you festering, and you can understand it." But he carried on working and only recently played Justice Shallow in a BBC production of *Henry IV*.

"He also said: "There's a stigma attached to one's appearance. People are reluctant to shake hands with you if they see you festering, and you can understand it." But he carried on working and only recently played Justice Shallow in a BBC production of *Henry IV*.

"He also said: "There's a stigma attached to one's appearance. People are reluctant to shake hands with you if they see you festering, and you can understand it." But he carried on working and only recently played Justice Shallow in a BBC production of *Henry IV*.

"He also said: "There's a stigma attached to one's appearance. People are reluctant to shake hands with you if they see you festering, and you can understand it." But he carried on working and only recently played Justice Shallow in a BBC production of *Henry IV*.

"He also said: "There's a stigma attached to one's appearance. People are reluctant to shake hands with you if they see you festering, and you can understand it." But he carried on working and only recently played Justice Shallow in a BBC production of *Henry IV*.

"He also said: "There's a stigma attached to one's appearance. People are reluctant to shake hands with you if they see you festering, and you can understand it." But he carried on working and only recently played Justice Shallow in a BBC production of *Henry IV*.

"He also said: "There's a stigma attached to one's appearance. People are reluctant to shake hands with you if they see you festering, and you can understand it." But he carried on working and only recently played Justice Shallow in a BBC production of *Henry IV*.

"He also said: "There's a stigma attached to one's appearance. People are reluctant to shake hands with you if they see you festering, and you can understand it." But he carried on working and only recently played Justice Shallow in a BBC production of *Henry IV*.

"He also said: "There's a stigma attached to one's appearance. People are reluctant to shake hands with you if they see you festering, and you can understand it." But he carried on working and only recently played Justice Shallow in a BBC production of *Henry IV*.

"He also said: "There's a stigma attached to one's appearance. People are reluctant to shake hands with you if they see you festering, and you can understand it." But he carried on working and only recently played Justice Shallow in a BBC production of *Henry IV*.

"He also said: "There's a stigma attached to one's appearance. People are reluctant to shake hands with you if they see you festering, and you can understand it." But he carried on working and only recently played Justice Shallow in a BBC production of *Henry IV*.

"He also said: "There's a stigma attached to one's appearance. People are reluctant to shake hands with you if they see you festering, and you can understand it." But he carried on working and only recently played Justice Shallow in a BBC production of *Henry IV*.

Millions
are being spent
on roads
no driver will
ever use.



£42 million of National Lottery funds has been given by The Millennium Commission to help create 6,500 miles of cycle route.

Soon there will be a National Cycle Network spanning the length and breadth of the country, passing within 2 miles of almost 21 million people. It's one of thousands of projects, big and small, that will benefit from all the money you're helping to raise. For every pound you spend on The National Lottery or National Lottery Instants, 28p goes to the Good Causes chosen by Parliament. Namely, Sport, Arts, Heritage, Charities and projects to celebrate the Millennium. Over £1 billion has been raised to help people all over the country. Just like these cyclists. So when you play The National Lottery, someone will be better off.



THE NATIONAL LOTTERY™

Irish ministry buys 'mystery deaths' farm

ALAN MURDOCH

Dublin

The Irish Republic's government has taken the unusual step of buying one of the Co Limerick farms at the centre of an investigation of unexplained cattle deaths and human illness.

A reported price of more than £150,000 is to be paid for the 85-acre Askeaton farm owned by Justin and Suzanne Ryan on the River Shannon. A neighbouring farm owned by Liam Somers is to be leased by the Irish authorities, who will now begin studies assisted by overseas experts into possible causes of 94 cattle deaths since 1988 on the Ryan farm and 49 on the Somers' holding.

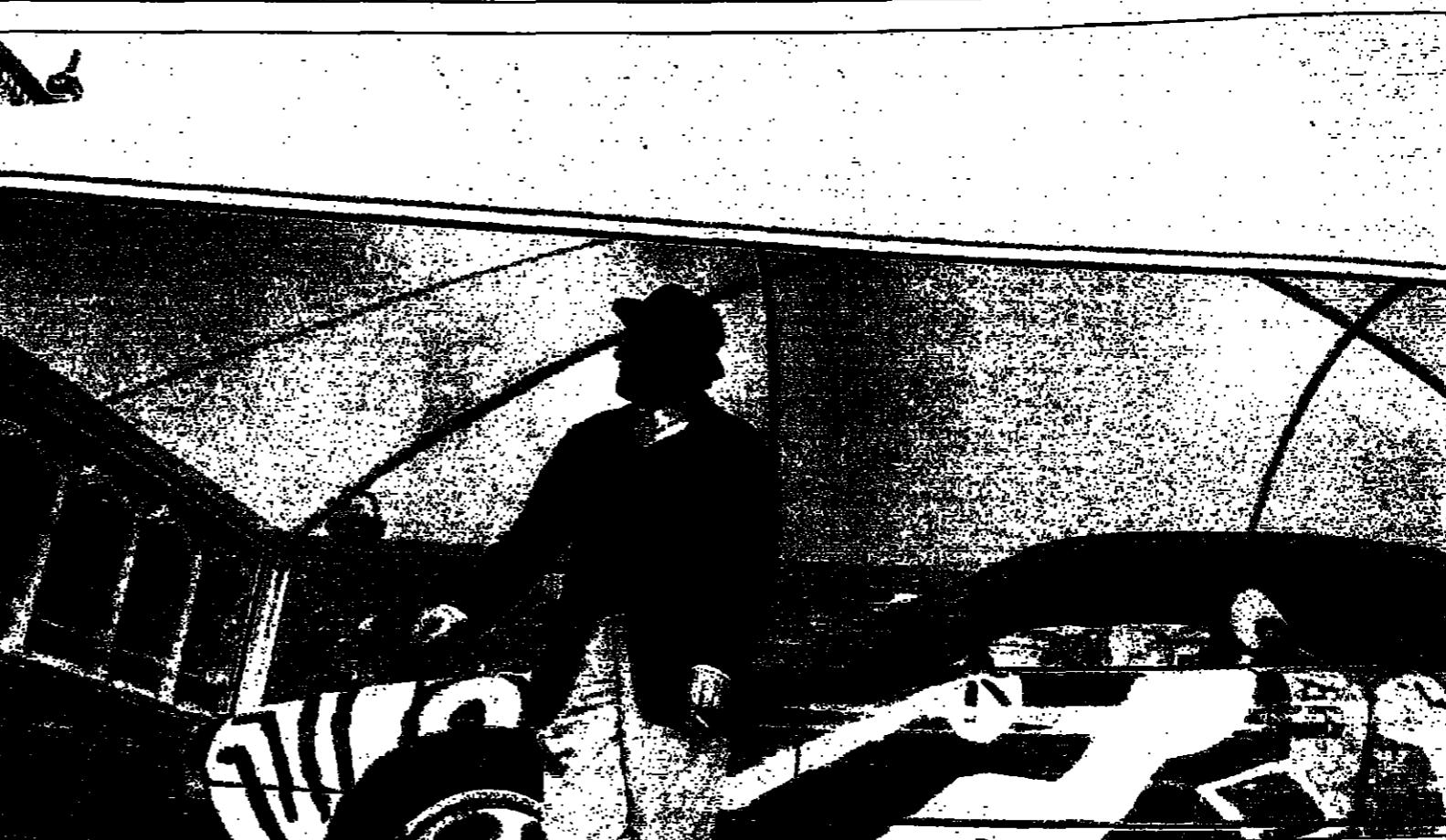
Local vets linked the cattle deaths with immune-system failures, amid fears of toxic emissions from local industry which includes a major alumina plant, a large coal-fired power station and pharmaceutical operations. The main industrial plants deny emitting waste

sufficiently toxic to kill cattle. The possibility that industrial emissions may be responsible was highlighted by a striking parallel between the Limerick cases and others studied by Dr Fiona Williams and Dundee scientists, reported in the *British Journal of Industrial Medicine*.

Dr Williams cited a "dramatic increase" in twin births among dairy cattle following the opening of chemical waste incinerators releasing polychlorinated hydrocarbons. Some of these have oestrogenic properties, imitating the effects of fertility drugs. Several Limerick farms have reported sharp rises in cattle twin births alongside birth defects such as no eyes.

Experts in European animal health policy say that for the state to purchase a farm is extremely rare, and suggests serious concern at the impact the incidents could have on Irish exports.

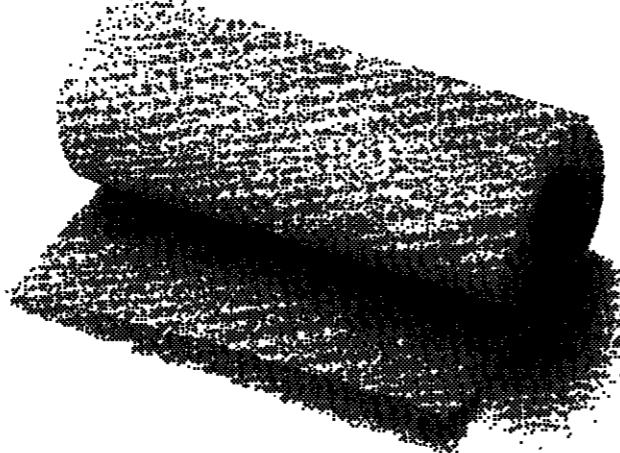
Ireland's huge agribusiness sector strongly emphasises the country's unspoilt environment in promoting food products.



Art on wheels: David Hockney at the Royal Academy in Piccadilly, London, yesterday with the Art Car he has created for BMW. The car is on show outside the exhibition 'David Hockney: a drawing retrospective' until 28 January. Photograph: David Sandison

Section Two: Interview page 4; Visual Arts page 8

How to cash a cheque.



When expecting a cheque in the post, some blind people ask the sender to attach it to a piece of textured paper, like kitchen roll, so that it is not confused with a compliment slip, or thrown away by mistake.

It's a simple solution to one of the frustrating problems that arise when blind people are sent information they cannot read. The Royal National Institute for the Blind (RNIB) understands the indignity visually impaired people feel at having to rely on others to read out private and confidential information. That's why we campaign for blind people to have access to information in 'readable' forms. Many companies like banks and telephone networks now provide bank statements and phone bills in large print, braille and tape. But many day to day tasks require information which is usually produced in a form blind people find useless. RNIB

will convert any specific printed items on request. From bus timetables and washing instructions to knitting patterns and the recipe for soufflé. Even the sheet music to Händel's 'Messiah'. RNIB also has braille and tape libraries stocking literature ranging from Barbara Cartland to Karl Marx. RNIB's work is particularly important if you consider that many of the one million blind or partially sighted people in Britain live alone. Perhaps you know someone who suffers from poor sight. Someone who could benefit from the services we offer. Someone who may not realise that people are there to help them. For more details about RNIB call us on 0171 388 1266.



Royal National Institute for the Blind

Charity Registration Number 226227

Mental health care 'fails ethnic minorities'

GLENDA COOPER

The quality of mental health care which people from ethnic minorities receive is "incomplete and inconsistent", according to a new report by a leading charity.

There are "worrying differences" between the way in which white people and those from ethnic minorities receive health care, the Mental Health Foundation said yesterday.

Compared with white people, African-Caribbeans are more likely to be admitted to psychiatric hospital following contact with the police and social services and less likely to be referred by their general practitioner; they are also more likely to be detained by the police under the Mental Health Act.

They are more likely to be admitted compulsorily to hospital under the Mental Health Act, diagnosed as violent and detained in locked wards, secure units and special hospitals.

"In summary, there is overwhelming evidence that African-Caribbean people are subject to greater coercive control by both the psychiatric and criminal justice systems," Dr Veena Soni Raleigh, author of the report, said. "It is widely believed that community and primary health-care services often fail to provide African-Caribbean people with the preventive and supportive care needed at an early stage to prevent the development of a crisis in mental health."

Findings show that schizophrenia is diagnosed three to six times more often in African-Caribbeans than in white people. In general, however, rates of minor psychiatric disorders such as neuroses, depression, drug and alcohol abuse are low-

er in black people, as are rates of suicide and attempted suicide.

Asian people were also found to have lower rates of mental illness overall than the white population, although they had a higher rate of schizophrenia.

A reason given for this was that the Asian community has genuinely low rates of mental illness because of its strong family support system. But there is also a reluctance to approach mental health services, either through language difficulties or through fear of stigma.

It is possible that GPs are failing to detect mental health problems. The suicide rate for young Asian women aged 15 to 24 was more than double the national rate and it was 60 per cent higher in women 25 to 34.

The Mental Health Foundation is calling for urgent action to improve mental health services from people from ethnic communities, setting out its recommendations in an eight-point plan which will be delivered to the Department of Health.

It proposes that black and minority ethnic people should be more involved in planning services and treatments; better communication between service purchasers and black and minority ethnic voluntary agencies and better training on race and cultural awareness for those working in mental health.

June McCarrow, the foundation's director, said: "It is clear that social services and health agencies are failing black and minority ethnic people. It is time to make improvements now so that these communities receive care and treatment which recognises their cultural differences and meets their needs."

NOTICE TO INVESTORS

N&P Overseas Limited gives notice that the annual and monthly rates of interest payable on its UK Reserve and UK Reserve Notice accounts, with effect from 7 November 1995, will be as indicated below:

UK Reserve

Minimum Balance (£)	Gross Annual Interest Rate (%)	Gross Monthly Interest Rate (%)
2,000	4.00	3.93
5,000	4.40	4.32
10,000	5.25	5.13
25,000	5.60	5.47
50,000	5.75	5.61
100,000	5.90	5.75

Balances falling below £2,000 will earn 2% interest

UK Reserve Notice Minimum Balance (£)	Gross Annual Interest Rate (%)	Gross Monthly Interest Rate (%)
5,000	5.00	4.89
10,000	6.00	5.85
25,000	6.15	5.99
50,000	6.35	6.18
100,000	6.50	6.32

Balances falling below £5,000 will earn 2% interest

If you require further details, please contact N&P Overseas Limited at PO Box 150, Douglas, Isle of Man IM99 1NH, telephone 01624 662244 or fax 01624 662482.


Incorporated in the Isle of Man registered number 57752C. Registered with the Isle of Man Financial Supervision Commission for Banking and Investment business.

French murde
Kille
IF YOU
make
YOU
GR
SAVE 25%
GENU
OTHER ST
INCLUDING 55%
554 RELAX
550 COMFORT
AVAILABLE FO
AT L
05
BUY ANY 6
SIZE FROM
SELECT
WORLD'S L
WHITE WIN
KNOCK 10
NOT INCLUDING CASE AND BOTTLES
OFFERS AVA
FROM WED. 8TH NOV
WHILE STOCK

international

French murder trial: Public roots for grey-haired man who hunted down wartime Jew-baiter



Left: René Bousquet (in dark coat) talking to German officers during his time as the Vichy regime's chief of police.



Right: Christian Didier in court at the start of the trial

Killer's tale stirs ghosts of Vichy

MARY DEJEVSKY
Paris

Even for a country with as rich a record of courtroom drama as France, the trial that opened in Paris yesterday has few rivals. The charge is premeditated murder: the defendant has admitted, even boasted, of the killing, but the plea is "not guilty" and there is at least half a chance that it could be accepted, because of the motive. For, while the accused, a slight, grey-haired man of 51, by the name of Christian Didier, might seem ordinary, his victim was not. René Bousquet, who was 84 when he was shot dead in his flat three years ago, was the Vichy regime's chief of police from April 1942 to December 1943 and personally ordered the notorious round-up of more than 12,000 Jews at the Vel-d'Hiv stadium in Paris.

Mr Didier's case is that his killing was morally justified, and he has two of the most accomplished lawyers in France on his side: Thierry Lévy, a brilliant orator and legal scholar who has specialised in "difficult" cases, acting for the anarchist group Action Directe and the former Marseille football boss, Bernard Tapie; and Arnaud Montebourg, a young anti-establishment lawyer who last month came within a hair's breadth of forcing the Prime Minister, Alain Juppé, out of office over the legality of his flat.

The facts of the Bousquet murder are hardly in dispute. On 8 June 1993 Mr Didier set off by train to Paris from his home in the Vosges village of Saint-Dié, took the metro to the elegant 16th Arrondissement Paris and talked his way into Bousquet's sixth-floor flat by claiming to be an interior min-

istry official with some papers to be signed. Bousquet, contrary to usual practice, answered the door himself. As he bent to look at the (false) papers, Mr Didier shot him at point blank range five times.

Afterwards, Mr Didier took the metro to a hotel in the Lilas district on the eastern fringe of Paris, and invited a selection of media organisations to a "press conference" about the not-yet-revealed murder of Bousquet. The police arrived to arrest him, as he was explaining that Bousquet was a "monster" who

tried to force his way into the Elysée palace to complain about former Vichy officials not being brought to trial. He also admits to having tried to kill Paul Touvier, the Vichy intelligence chief in Lyons.

His trial has attracted huge attention in France, reviving once again the unresolved question of the Vichy regime and how to deal with it. Only four senior Vichy officials have ever been indicted in France on war crimes charges, and only Touvier has stood trial.

Bousquet himself was sentenced to a five-year prison term in 1949, but was released in recognition of "services to the Resistance". He was indicted for war crimes in 1991 at the instigation of the anti-Nazi campaigner, Serge Klarsfeld, and was awaiting trial at the time of his death. His long-standing friendship with then President, François Mitterrand, is cited as a possible reason why the investigation took so long.

Mr Didier enjoys strong public support. His defence lawyers are bringing a dozen or more specialist witnesses - professors of moral philosophy, historians and lawyers specialising in the holocaust and in the war crimes of the Vichy regime, and individuals who had been called to testify against Bousquet when it was expected that he, not Mr Didier, would be in the dock.

Didier's home town is also standing by him. The Saint-Dié council last week passed a motion asking the Paris court to show clemency. The town, close to the German border, was almost destroyed during the Occupation, and Mr Didier claims that his childhood was scarred by the constant stories of round-ups and killings that were told around him.

Despite his already mythical moral stature, Mr Didier cut a sad and confused figure yesterday. Standing alone in front of the microphone, dwarfed by the red-robed dignitaries, he went from stumbling replies to garrulousness. Admitting to unhappy relations with his father, international wandering, failure as an author and a history of mental illness, Didier darted capriciously among the judge's questions, sprinkling answers with references to his "traumatisation" as a child.

If the defence lawyers and a section of the public wished the Didier trial to become the trial of Vichy, or at least of Bousquet, they may be disappointed. The judge warned the jury at the outset: "Remember, you are not trying René Bousquet for what he may have done, but Christian Didier for responsibility for this killing."

MARY DEJEVSKY
Paris

Ministers are getting testy. members of parliament are making their pitch to the media and the trade unions are co-ordinating their protests in anticipation. Next Monday and Tuesday, the French Prime Minister, Alain Juppé, will present his "structural solution" to the "grave difficulties" facing the social security system in France, and no one is going to like it.

Last minute lobbying is in full swing. All-day parliamentary hearings are being held in the first three days of this week for the various interest groups to make their cases. But planned live television coverage was called off - too boring or too sensitive, no one is saying.

For the past two years, the system, known as the Sécu - which incorporates all health spending and social benefits and is administered quite separately from the state budget - has been running up big debts, and Mr Juppé has promised to bring it into balance by 1997. His starting point, according to figures released this week, is a deficit estimated to reach 64.5bn francs (£8.6bn) in the current year.

Those who manage the Sécu - a commission made up of doctors', trade unions' and employers' representatives - know that this situation cannot continue. Presenting the Sécu's audited accounts for 1994 and projections for 1995 and 1996 this week, its general secretary, Jean Marnot, began: "The time has come for hard decisions to be taken on the French social security system...social solidarity cannot be financed on credit."

The trade unions' preferred solution is to have the system, funded at present exclusively from workers' and employers' contributions, part-funded from the central budget. But they are wary of losing their say in running it. The employers, for their part, fear that any change in funding could mean more money taken from them.

Knowing that any changes will be dynamite to already

discontented public sector workers, not to mention tax-payers, who have already paid out an extra 2 per cent in VAT this summer, Mr Juppé is showing extreme caution on the surface, while holding some big guns in reserve.

Last month he launched a nationwide "debate", which boiled down to 22 regional seminars, chaired by ministers, at which all interested parties were invited to voice their concerns and suggestions. Not surprisingly, the exercise produced no consensus for either reducing spending or re-ordering priorities.

It is widely predicted that benefits and allowances, which are mostly neither taxed nor means-tested, will be considered as "income" and taxed accordingly. There is talk of a "temporary" increase of 1 percentage point in the "social charge" - roughly equivalent to a national insurance contribution - that is paid by everyone in work, and of means-testing family allowances. Regulations for claiming unemployment and housing benefits could also be tightened.

Some of the most contested changes could be in health spending. It is already known that "hotel" charges for hospital stays will be going up by 15 per cent. GPs may have to forgo a pay increase scheduled for next year.

A nominal charge of Fr5 or Fr10 for prescriptions, or for each packet or bottle of medicine, has been mooted, as has a one-off charge to GPs for setting up in urban areas (where ministers believe there are too many doctors).

Any curbing of doctors' freedom to practise and prescribe will be as unpopular in France as it would be in Britain, and the complaints are already loud. The leader of the main doctors' union, Richard Botton, stormed out of a Sécu budget meeting last week, shouting that ministers were blaming doctors for this year's overspend and that this was "intolerable".

Mr Juppé, meanwhile, is saying nothing - and has banned his ministers from saying anything either.

IF YOU'VE GOT A makro TRADECARD YOU'VE GOT A GREAT DEAL!

SAVE £££'S ON TOP BRAND LINES
GENUINE LEVI 501'S
OTHER STYLES
INCLUDING 560 LOOSE FIT
554 RELAX FIT AND
550 COMFORT FIT ALSO
AVAILABLE FOR 24.99 +VAT

NOW ONLY
24.99
+VAT

AT LEAST
50%
OFF

THAT'S RIGHT - WE'VE CUT AT
LEAST 50% OFF OUR NORMAL
SELLING PRICE ON A WIDE RANGE
OF TOP BRAND LINES E.G.

SELECTED TOP QUALITY
EDINBURGH CRYSTAL
SELECTED MENS,
LADIES AND CHILDRENS
FASHIONS
SELECTED DORMA BED-
DING AND CURTAINS
SELECTED CARLTON
LUGGAGE

TOWNSEND
SWITCHBACK
MOUNTAIN BIKES
BLACK AND DECKER
16" ROTARY MOWERS
FILA; TAOS AND
CENTINEL MENS BOOTS
SELECTED
GOLD JEWELLERY

BUY ANY 6 BOTTLES, ANY
SIZE FROM OUR MASSIVE
SELECTION OF THE
WORLD'S BEST RED AND
WHITE WINES - AND WE'LL
KNOCK 10% OFF THEIR ANY 6 SINGLE
TOTAL PRICE!
*NOT INCLUDING CASE OFFERS OR MULTISAVE PROMOTIONS
AND BOTTLES MUST BE WORTH OVER £3.49 +VAT EACH

OFFERS AVAILABLE
FROM WED. 8th NOVEMBER
WHILE STOCKS LAST

makro
THE UK'S "No. 1 DISOUNTER"
OF BIG NAME BRANDS

IF YOU'VE NOT REGISTERED
YOUR BUSINESS FOR A
FREE MAKRO TRADECARD
CALL 0800 450000 NOW!

**SELECT SIX
10% OFF
ANY 6 SINGLE
BOTTLES* FROM OUR
SUPERB WINE RANGE**

NEW IMPROVED SERVICE - SAME LOW PRICE

From just £29
the RAC
covers you
in any
car.

Membership of the RAC still starts at just £29 - but now your basic cover offers even more benefits.

■ RAC Rescue covers you, not your car. So now you can call on us whenever you need fast roadside assistance, even when you're simply a passenger in someone else's car.

■ Roadside Rescue. In more than 8 out of 10 cases, our patrols can fix cars on the spot. Otherwise, they'll tow you to a nearby garage, free of charge.

■ Accident Service. A free courtesy car, free legal advice, plus we'll deal with your insurers.

PHONE FREE TODAY ON
0800 029 029
OR INTERNET
<http://www.rac.co.uk/>

AND QUOTE SS1504/3XX



■ Theft and Vandalism Cover. If your car's stolen or can't be driven because of vandalism, we'll get you home and recover your car, too.

■ Battery Assist. A new battery on the spot.

Whatever service you use, callouts and our labour are free - you only pay for parts.

You can also tailor your cover to meet your needs, with the option to take out Joint and Family Cover or add our 'At Home' service.

Don't wait until you break down. Find out how to join the RAC today.

YES - I want to join the RAC.

Please tell me how I can join from just £29.

Mr/Mrs/Ms/Ms

Address

Postcode

Telephone

Send to: RAC Rescue, FREEPOST,
Bristol BS38 7AU. (No stamp needed.)

*Recall costs £29 if you pay by Continuous Credit Card Authority or Direct Debit. All prices include an amendment fee. Please note open Monday - Friday 8am - 4pm, Saturday 9am - 5pm, Sunday 10am - 4pm.



IT SAYS
YOU'VE ARRIVED

14
international

26

S Bosnia peace talks: Milosevic balks over Bosnian recognition, human rights in Serbia and surrendering Karadzic and Mladic

F

Serbs' tough line throws deal hopes into jeopardy

TONY BARBER

Europe Editor

The Yugoslav peace negotiations in Ohio were reported to be at an impasse yesterday, with Serbia complaining about US pressure to make concessions and Croatia taking a hard line on the future of the Serb-controlled enclave of Eastern Slavonia.

In former Yugoslavia there were more violent setbacks, in the form of a grenade and gun attack by unidentified assailants that wounded seven French UN peace-keepers in the southern Bosnian city of Mostar.

An official news blackout has been placed on the talks at a US air base near Dayton, Ohio, but diplomats said the atmosphere was strained. One characterised the negotiating positions of the Croats, Serbs and Muslims as "depressingly amiable brinkmanship".

Serbia's President, Slobodan Milosevic, is under pressure to secure the removal of the Bosnian Serb leaders, Radovan Karadzic and General Ratko Mladic, as a precondition for a

settlement. The US government, brokering the talks, has signalled it will not send troops to patrol an accord unless Mr Karadzic and General Mladic are removed from power.

Without US troops deployed in the region, the chances of a stable peace settlement, particularly in Bosnia, look slim.

Yet, the Republican-dominated Congress is unwilling to endorse the despatch of thousands of American soldiers to Bosnia as long as Mr Karadzic and General Mladic, whom the UN has named as war crimes suspects, remain in office.

Mr Milosevic is being asked to recognise Bosnia and Croatia in their pre-war borders.

This would, in theory, eliminate the possibility of the creation of a Greater Serbia, incorporating Serb-populated parts of Bosnia and Croatia. However, since the establishment of such a state was one of the original Serb war aims in 1991, it is not easy for Mr Milosevic to give ground without making himself politically vulnerable to nationalists in the Serbian political apparatus.

Mr Milosevic is being asked to also guarantee the protection of human rights of ethnic minorities in Serbia. They refers to the predominantly Albanian population of the southern province of Kosovo and to the Muslims of the Sandzak region straddling Serbia and Montenegro.

Officials close to the peace talks said Mr Milosevic was angry about the US pressure, suspecting he had been lured to Ohio under false pretences. "He is being asked to make some concessions that weren't mentioned to him in the run-up to the talks," one official said.

Mr Milosevic contends that he does not exercise sufficient influence over Bosnian Serb politics to determine who should control the government and army. However, it appears that the gritty chief US mediator, Richard Holbrooke, is not prepared to tolerate Mr Milosevic's evasive tactics.

As for the Croats, sources close to the Ohio talks said there were fears that President Franjo Tuđman's delegates were stringing out the negotiating

process to avoid a settlement that would grant autonomy to Serbs in Eastern Slavonia. They said Mr Tuđman's preferred solution appeared to be the removal of the Serbs from the region, just as the Serb populations of Western Slavonia and Krajina fled, or were ejected, in May and August.

Eastern Slavonia, conquered by local Serbs and the Serbian-led Yugoslav army in 1991, is the last piece of Croat territory still in Serb hands. The local Serbs want a three-year period during which the region would be under UN administration, followed by a referendum on the region's status. But Mr Tuđman has warned that if the Ohio talks do not return the region to Croatia, the Croatian army could launch an attack any time after 30 November.

The attack on French peacekeepers in Mostar occurred on Sunday night, when a French guard was shot in the arm and six soldiers were wounded by a grenade blast. It was the most serious violation of the ceasefire that was declared in Bosnia on 12 October.



Winter watch: A Bosnian Croat fighter stands guard on top of the battlements of Jajce castle in central Bosnia. The ancient city was recaptured from Serbs in a recent offensive. Photograph: AP

Save up to £1,300 on repayments?*

What do you think it is-Christmas?



Options	Fiesta 1.3 LX 5 door ¹⁾	Escort 1.8 TD 5 door Ghia	Mondeo 2.0i LX 5 door ¹⁾
Mileage	24,000 mpa	24,000 mpa	24,000 mpa
Recommended Retail Price ¹⁾	£8,825	£14,065	£13,185
Estimated On-The-Road Price ¹⁾	£9,430	£14,670	£13,790
Deposit (%)	10%	10%	10%
Deposit (£)	£943	£1,467	£1,379
Balance	£8,487	£13,203	£12,411
Total Charges for Credit ¹⁾	£1,985.92	£3,058.64	£2,876.32
Total Credit Price	£11,415.92	£17,728.64	£16,666.32
Term (months)	25	25	25
Number of Monthly Payments	24	24	24
Monthly Payments	£283.33	£440.86	£414.93
Optional Final Payment to Purchase ¹⁾	£3,618	£5,626	£5,274
APR	16.7%	16.5%	16.5%
REPAYMENT FROM FORD ¹⁾	£849.99	£1322.58	£1244.79

It certainly seems like it. Drive away a new Fiesta LX, Mondeo LX or Escort Ghia, Si or LX model on Options between now and November 30th, and Ford will pay you a sum equal to three monthly payments.*

For more information, contact your Ford Dealer or call 0800 111 222.

And start believing in Santa Claus.



Available until November 30th.

Subject to model availability. Finance provided subject to status to over 18s only. Guarantees and indemnities may be required. Certain categories of business users will be ineligible. (1) Including VAT at 17.5% as at October 1, 1995. (2) Includes delivery, plates, fuel and 12 months road fund licence. (3) Includes £55 administration fee (inc VAT) payable with the first monthly payment. (4) Further charges may be made subject to mileage and condition. Written Options available from Ford Credit Europe plc, PO Box 46, Braintree CM12 3AB. Applies to vehicles registered between 1/10/95 and 30/11/95. Financed under Ford Credit's 24 month Options Hire Purchase Agreement. This payment will be made by Ford Motor Company Ltd and shall not affect the customer's liabilities under the Options Hire Purchase Agreement with Ford Credit Europe plc and shall exclude the administration fee and any Payment Protection Plan premiums. *Only applies to Fiestas built before 01/10/95 and Mondeo's built after 01/10/95.

ADVERTISEMENT
1 2 3
1. The artery is clogged by deposits
2 & 3 Through what you eat you can gradually clean your arteries.

Your arteries can clean themselves

Your arteries can eliminate, by themselves, the deposits obstructing them. In exactly the same way as a jet of water can loosen mud from a wall, your blood flow can rinse out your arteries if it is not full of harmful impurities. In a recent book *Alexis Amziev* explains how a natural, but delicious, diet can significantly improve arterial problems.

People who have tried it are enthusiastic and say, for example: 'My legs don't hurt now' (*MB, restaurant owner*). 'My blood pressure is fine, I've no more ringing in my ears' (*JV, from T*). 'My cholesterol and triglycerides have gone back to normal, I no longer have any weight problems and yet I eat well' (*DF, from V*). 'My arteries are clean. I don't have to stay still any more to avoid feeling pain' (*NF, a secretary*, from D).

Clean out your arteries. Recent observations show that the traditional 'anti-cholesterol' diets fail to clean out the arteries properly. It would be

absolutely essential to act quickly and correctly. To receive these free gifts return the coupon below - today, as you have nothing to lose.

© 1995 Carnell plc, 20 Ecclesfield Square, London SW1 YPL
10: Carnell plc, Dept Y44, Alresford, Cuckfield, Essex C07 8AP
or telephone our 24 hour order line on 01206 625600 (quoting Dept. code).
YES please send me, by return, *Alexis Amziev's* book 'Your Arteries Can Clean Themselves' (together with the free gifts) on the understanding I can return the book at any time within 12 months for a full refund if not satisfied.

I enclose my cheque/PO for £9.95 (which includes postage and handling) made payable to Carnell plc

Please charge my Visa/Access card no: (exp. date)

Name (Mr/Mrs/Ms) _____

Address _____

Postcode _____

Telephone _____

Please allow up to 4 weeks for delivery. We hope to be able to return any unsatisfactory books within 12 months of purchase.

Enjo

Shopper's Day
Exclusive readers

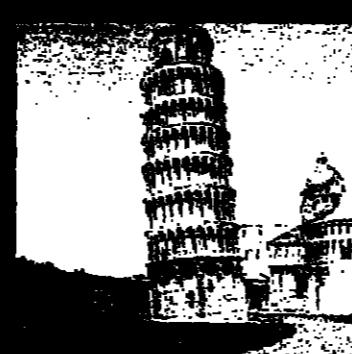
JULY 1995

news analysis

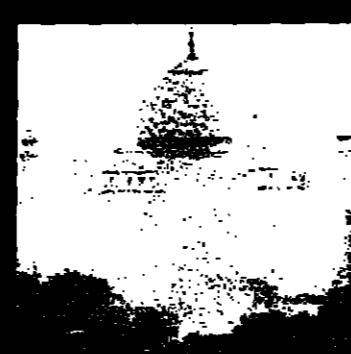
How to stop tourism causing a standstill



KING'S COLLEGE, CAMBRIDGE
Visitors per year: 323,000
Problem: tourists disturb a working environment
Solutions: an entry fee was imposed to limit numbers. The college grounds, but not the "closes", are closed during exam time and a tourist liaison officer has been employed to control tourism.



LEANING TOWER OF PISA, ITALY
Visitors per year: 1m
Problem: the tower had to close in 1989 because of timely foundations built on waterlogged clay and sand rather than natural concretion
Solution: due to reopen next year after being strengthened with steel cables, but visitor numbers will be restricted.



TAJ MAHAL, INDIA
Visitors per year: 720,000
Problems: tourists rub their hands on the cold flowers on tombs in the crypt, causing the growth of a fungus which blackens the marble. Local industry and traffic create stains which stain the building yellow
Solution: remove heavy industry from the vicinity

End of the road for a 'national disgrace'

Slowly but surely, the realisation has dawned that Britain's greatest prehistoric monument is in a shameful state. Stonehenge is flanked by two busy A roads and an ugly concrete visitors' centre with sprawling car parks. It is, as the Commons Public Accounts Committee pointed out a few years ago, "a national disgrace".

The shame is compounded by the realisation that there is an alternative. For two years the Government's conservation agency, English Heritage, and the National Trust have been presenting a vision in which the stones stand alone and unencumbered in a gently rolling chalk grassland, the A303 and A344 and the visitor centre all closed and grassed over.

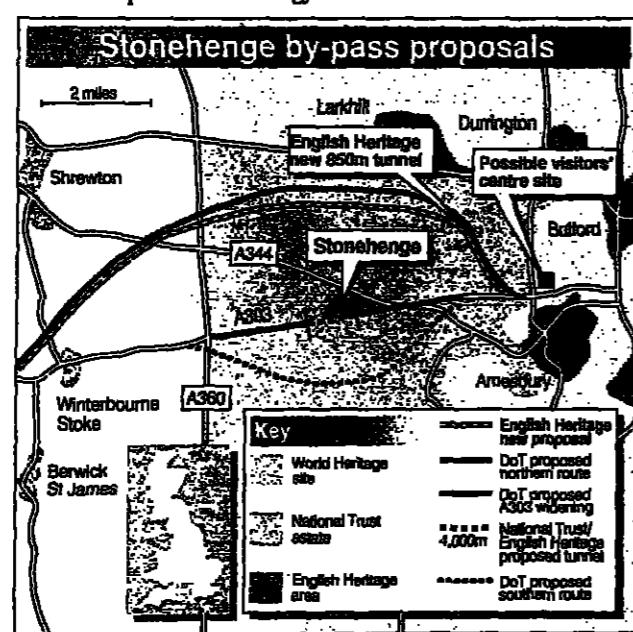
For Stonehenge consists of more than a few rings of stones. It stands amid 10 square miles of an officially designated World Heritage site scattered with prehistoric features - the great avenue from the henge itself, the cursus tumuli and barrows.

The opportunity to realise the vision exists because the Department of Transport already has plans for the A303, which links the M3 to the M5, Exeter and the West Country. The stretch running past Stonehenge is single carriage-way, heavily congested and due to become much more so. If it needs widening, then why not divert it away from the stones at the same time?

But as a special planning conference that began in Salisbury yesterday discovered, life is never

that simple. Finding a route that satisfies local and national interests and which the Government judges to be affordable is proving extremely difficult.

The conservationists' ideal - to run the A303 under the site through several miles of tunnel - is ruled out by costs of around half a billion pounds. Later this week English Heritage, which looks after the stones and runs the existing visitors' centre, will publish its own proposals for diverting the A303 around the north of Stonehenge. It advocates a short stretch of tunnel which would add about £30m to the cost and go under some of the most important archaeology.



This week's conference is intended to find areas of agreement between the different national and local interests involved. Meanwhile, the formal statutory process of deciding how to upgrade the A303 fumbles on. A public inquiry still has to be held. On past form it will take years for a final decision to be made, but until it is, long-term plans for improving the public presentation of Stonehenge cannot be finalised.

So English Heritage is trying its hardest to influence and quicken the process, working closely with the National Trust, which owns most of the World Heritage site land around Stonehenge. They are determined to realise their vision of an open prehistoric landscape in which the public may roam. The hope is that a way can be found to let far more people actually walk right among the stones - something that has been denied to the great majority of visitors for the past 10 years because of fears of damage.

The renaissance of Stonehenge is a gigantic tourist project. Paying visitor numbers, now running at 700,000 a year, could rise to well over 1 million. An investment of many tens of millions of pounds will be necessary, including a new visitors' centre and a hotel some two miles away. Unsurprisingly, English Heritage is drawing up a bid for lottery funding from the Millennium Commission.

Nicholas Schoon

Just the ticket to avoid the crush

As an inquiry grapples with the issue of what to do with vehicle congestion around Stonehenge, one of Britain's most popular ancient sites, the larger issue of how our heritage is to survive ever greater inundations of tourists becomes more and more pressing.

Infestation is happening here and now. London has run out of hotel rooms, Heathrow has run out of farms, and the mainland Chinese haven't even started arriving yet. Consider the tens of thousands of Japanese who troop around Western capitals today. Think of the impact made already by Chinese from Hong Kong and Taiwan, and by Koreans. Now multiply all that by 10; that gives some indication of the mighty tide of tourism we will face from mainland China alone by the early years of the next century.

They will flock through Leicester Square and Piccadilly Circus, and the effect will be merely decorative. But they will also go to the National Gallery, the V&A, Stratford-on-Avon and Stonehenge. A minority - but a stunning number of people all the same - will go on to the Lake District, too.

But this is not just a problem for the future. Under the press of numbers, many tourist experiences are already being destroyed. Everyone gets to see the picture, the monument, the palace - but no one gets to see it properly, and the sheer numbers put the object in jeopardy.

Allowing the tourist market to take its course unimpeded makes no more sense than allowing loggers to have their way in Amazonia. For any particular monument, natural or man-made, there is an optimum number of people who

can enjoy it to the full at any given time. *Mona Lisa*, five; Stonehenge, 50; Venice, perhaps 10,000. The task ahead for those who administer such places is devising ways that will permit access to the right sort of numbers, so that each person who pays their entrance fee will do so confident that they will be able to enjoy it to the full, in the same way that they enjoy the theatre or cinema, confident of having a seat with a view.

A pioneering way of regulating numbers was recently introduced by the National Trust. Faced with overwhelming crowds at Uppark, its 17th century stately home near Chichester, which has experienced a surge of popularity since being rebuilt after a catastrophic fire, the trust instituted a system of "time ticketing", where visitors must look around during the time specified on their ticket. It is the first time such a scheme has been implemented on trust property, and it is proving a success. The inevitable wait is

Top ten tourist attractions in Britain

- 1 Blackpool Pleasure Beach - 7,200,000 (visits per year)
- 2 British Museum, London - 5,896,692
- 3 Strathclyde Country Park, Motherwell - 4,380,000
- 4 National Gallery, London - 4,301,656
- 5 Palace Pier, Brighton - 3,500,000
- 6 Alton Towers, Staffordshire - 3,011,000
- 7 Madame Tussaud's, London - 2,631,538
- 8 St Paul's Cathedral, London - 2,600,000
- 9 Funland and Laserbow, Trocadero, London - 2,500,000
- 10 Tower of London - 2,407,115

richly compensated by the luxury of enjoying the house almost as if one lived in it.

It is a form of rationing that is already widely employed in the United States, and it is likely to find increasing favour here, too. Ancient sites, with their numinous atmosphere, are easily spoiled by hordes of people, are suitable cases for treatment. Instead of keeping everyone at such a great distance that they hardly feel they have visited the place, as happens at present at Stonehenge for smaller numbers arriving at specific times might be allowed to roam among the stones as they did in the past.

The idea will be extended to sites of outstanding natural beauty. The Lake District disappears under tens of thousands of pairs of boots - and suffers disastrous erosion at the same time. Some form of rationing will surely be adopted in the next few years. We will grumble and moan about the restrictions, but once we arrive and taste the lonely beauty of the place, we will be won over.

The challenge of the future will be to allow all who want it the most intimate possible contact with our heritage, while making sure that future generations will be able to enjoy it in the same way. Those twin goals will be impossible without a widespread and intelligently administered form of time ticketing.

Peter Popham

Diary

VICKY WARD

Memo to all MPs: although the sounding of the parliamentary division bell means that you have a mere eight minutes to haul yourselves out of the pubs to present yourself in the House to vote, it does not enable you to break the Highway Code. One of you, at least, is unaware of this.

On Tuesday night my husband and I had stopped at the red traffic lights at the junction of Whitehall and Parliament Square. In front we noticed a sudden flurry of MPs and political hacks running across the road - a signal the division bell had run. Suddenly a car pulled up behind us, flashing its lights. We turned round and recognised the minister in the passenger seat, who was looking straight at us. I faced. Cursing, my husband edged our car out of the way. The ministerial car easily sailed through the red light, creating havoc with the stream of moving cars whose right of way it was.

Subsequently, I have made it my mission to find out whether this minister's actions were legal. Answer, collectively from Scotland Yard, 10 Downing Street, the Department of Transport, the Cabinet Office and from the Palace of Westminster: "Absolutely not. "Only," says 10 Downing Street, "when a police escort is provided may a head of state, or a senior politician drive outside normal traffic regulations". All that now remains is for me to send a copy of this memo to the law-breaking politician himself: prepare yourself, dear Chancellor, for a nasty shock.



Keep it legal, Ken

Diary **Keep it legal, Ken**
near Petherbridge kept pointing to a bust on the mantelpiece, enunciating loudly: "This bust belongs to my establishment. When there is a new prime minister we will take it back, so we're expecting it back any moment." A friend on another broadsheet wrote a piece about the homeless recently and afterwards received a call from a reader: "My husband, Mr Darcy", so the actor Edward Petherbridge tells me he has found himself invited to 10 Downing Street purely on the strength of his portrayal of Lord Peter Wimsey in the BBC television series based on the books by Dorothy L Sayers. Petherbridge, whom I encountered at last week's launch of *The Letters of Dorothy L Sayers (1893-1953: The Making of a Detective Novelist)*, edited by Barbara Reynolds, was terrifically flattered when first he received the party invitation last year. "I had never met the PM or his wife," he explains. "Dorothy L Sayers is a member of the Dorothy L Sayers society and is therefore a fan of the series."

But the party did not run entirely as the hosts would wish. A man standing

former Bishop of Durham, has been sparking controversy again. At a conference held last week in St Mary's Cathedral, Glasgow, organised by the Anglican chaplaincy to the universities, Dr Jenkins publicly supported the principle of cutting. Speaking alongside Peter Tatchell, leader of OutRage!, the gay lobbyists, he said that in cases of hypocrisy "cutting was a perfectly reasonable and understandable tactic... people cannot expect to have their privacy respected if they invade the privacy of others". He added that OutRage!, which recently came under criticism for attempting to cut the Bishop of London, who, in the event chose to declare his sexuality a "grey area" anyway, "had done an awful lot of good". The enforced hypocrisy about sexuality is one of the most worrying things in the church.

Needless to say Bishop Jenkins, whose speech was met with gasps, is unlikely to find supporters in the church. Whilst the Archdeacon of York commented the name OutRage! speaks for itself - it is outrageous", the Chaplain to the Bishop of Chester refrained from putting the issue to the bishop himself. "The bishop," he said, "has just had surgery. Somehow I doubt this will speed his recovery."

Waiters at a certain expensive seafood restaurant in Geneva are still recovering from the unprecedented actions in their premises last week of the former Commandos singer and Ian Hislop lookalike Jimmy Somerville. Somerville, who is a lapsed vegetarian, strode in and was apparently appalled by the sight of 12 lobsters sitting in a tank, waiting to be cooked on the shell, boiled and devoured by any customer who wished. "I will pay for all 12," Somerville told the waiter, who looked taken aback, "but I do not want to eat them, I want you to take them to the lake and set them free." In vain, the waiters argued. Somerville was resolute. At a cost of over £1,000 he insisted that the lobsters be set free instantly. He accompanied the waiter and the lobsters to the lake. Whoosh! In they went and, alas, died instantly.

The church's most controversial figure, the Rt Rev David Jenkins, the

Too late Mr Somerville and the waiters realised that they had overlooked one significant factor in their efforts to save the lobsters: the water in the lake was fresh.



Any lobster knows that, Jimmy

Scottish politics, normally so gentlemanly, is getting rather acrimonious in North East Fife. Adam Bruce, the constituency's Tory prospective parliamentary candidate, last week published an open letter in the Scottish press to Menzies Campbell, the sitting Lib Dem MP, challenging him to clarify his position on lottery scratchcards, on account of the British Legion's current use of them to boost funds. Bruce claims the Liberal Democrats called lottery scratchcards "evil and addictive" and asks Campbell if "the public should be discouraged from supporting the British Legion's campaign". Campbell has replied publicly saying that the Lib Dems never said scratchcards were "evil and addictive" and the British Legion needs to raise more funds precisely because the lottery has denied its habitual supply. Privately he is less equanimous: "It's a damn stupid letter," he fumed from Westminster.

My spies in Scotland, however, have explained the real reason behind this petty war. Bruce and Campbell go back a long way. Their families are great friends. But at a political function recently Campbell, 54, caused Bruce, 29, huge embarrassment. "Ooh Adam" jibed Campbell in front of everybody. "Last time I saw you, you were in short trousers."

1 or 2 Night Breaks
BED & BREAKFAST with a range of prices from only £29 per person per night

BOOK EARLY

West of England	East Anglia	South of England	North of England	Central England	Wales and Scotland
St Vincent Rocks Hotel	The Imperial	The Swan Hotel	The Royal Arms	The Crown Hotel	The Plough & Harrow
Stowey	The Imperial	Bentwistle	Bentwistle	Corby Hill Hotel	Hotel De La Rose
Stowey	Palace Hotel	Grindley	Grindley	Covey Hill	Buckingham Forest Hotel
Stratford	The Grange Hotel	Harewood	Harewood	Covey	Covey
Swindon	The Stowey Hotel	Leigh Woods	Leigh Woods	Derby	Derby
Swindon	The Great Hotel	Northallerton	Northallerton	Grange	Grange
Swindon	The Grand Atlantic	Scotsborough	Scotsborough	The Grosvenor House Hotel	The Angel & Royal
Widcombe Mallet	The King's Head	Sheffield	Sheffield	The Grosvenor House Hotel	The Grosvenor House Hotel
Yeovil	The Manor Hotel	Widcombe	Widcombe	The Belfield	Belfield

£29 per person per night

White Hart
HOTELS

Even if you cannot get away for a longer break White Hart Hotels offer a range of one and two night Leisure Breaks still at a great value for money price. If you need to get away now call us on 0345 543 543

If you are planning a break for later in the year then call 0345 543 543 for the latest copy of the White Hart Leisure Breaks brochure. When booking please quote the following booking reference PIN127 (all calls charged at local rates) or contact your local travel agent. White Hart Hotels accept all major credit cards.

Up to 2 children under 16 stay FREE when sharing a room with 1 or 2 adults. Price is per adult based on 2 persons sharing a twin or double room only.

Single occupancy is only available in single rooms, subject to availability. Children's meal charged as taken. Under 5's eat FREE. All prices are inclusive of VAT.

Israel's comfort in time of grief

Even in their grief, the people of Israel must have drawn solace from the extraordinary scenes at Yitzhak Rabin's funeral. Leaders of the world's most powerful nations and of countries once ranked among Israel's fiercest enemies came to the disputed city of Jerusalem at a moment's notice to mourn the assassinated premier.

This diplomatic solidarity is the promise that survives the murder of a distinguished leader. Internal divisions and hatred may have spawned Mr Rabin's killer, but the principal threat to Israel has always been the hostility of its neighbours. Judging by yesterday's events, that danger has receded.

The eulogy given by King Hussein of Jordan illustrated most vividly the opportunity that now exists for Israel to live peacefully with at least some Arab nations. Here is a man who led his people into three Arab-Israeli wars. For him the loss of Jerusalem to Israeli occupation in the 1967 Six-Day War remains deeply painful. Yet he stood in that city yesterday, eloquent in his grieving and full of praise for his former foe's courage and vision.

Likewise Hosni Mubarak, the Egyptian president, was prompted by Mr Rabin's death to take another step toward normalising relations with his neighbour. This was the first visit by an Egyptian head of state since his predecessor Anwar Sadat was assassinated after making peace with the Jewish state. He praised Mr Rabin for tackling "the most delicate and complicated aspect of Middle East peace, which is the Palestinian issue".

In all of this, one sensed the mutual empathy of that small band of people whose political profile makes them potential targets of the assassin. President Mubarak has been the subject of numerous death plots. King Hussein's life is under constant threat. President Clinton

spoke of America's losses: from Abraham Lincoln to John F Kennedy and Martin Luther King.

Other leaders will also recognise the problem with which Israel must now struggle: the emergence of an enemy within, a faction rooted in the state's own founding ideals, but distorted to the point of savagery. There is in Israel's loss of innocence an echo from the United States after the Oklahoma bombing by right-wing extremists. Similarly the waning attractions of Arab nationalism have left Egypt to Islamic militancy and division.

But the breadth of goodwill displayed towards Israel yesterday arises directly from the changes that Mr Rabin pioneered. He set aside the belligerence that had threatened to alienate even Israel's friends; his reward is that his country is stronger as a result. He has pointed the way forward for his successor, Shimon Peres.

As the visionary behind Israel's peace policy, Mr Peres will have no difficulty knowing his goal. His problem is that his reputation as a Labour Party dove may make it harder for him to forge support in Israel for the difficult steps ahead: negotiating withdrawal from the Golan Heights, settling Jerusalem's status and making peace with Syria and Lebanon.

Without the same level of public trust as Mr Rabin, he will probably have to tread more warily than even his cautious predecessor. The assassination of Mr Rabin has, however, raised doubts among voters about the far right and its links to the mainstream Likud Party, thus perhaps increasing the left's freedom of manoeuvre.

From the shared grief of this funeral to a shared peace and economic prosperity will involve another long and turbulent march. Yitzhak Rabin's legacy is that his countrymen have been shown the way.



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Who does the public trust?

From Mr Robert M. Worcester
Sir: Stephen Ward's interesting "Judges vs the Government" (News Analysis, 3 November) cites judges against politicians on seven criteria: selflessness, integrity, objectivity, accountability, openness, honesty and leadership. His conclusion is that judges score 38 (out of 70!) against politicians' 30, but the public see it somewhat differently.

When asked how the two sides compare on veracity, telling us whether they generally trust them to tell the truth or not, we find judges six times more trusted than government ministers, 68 per cent to 11 per cent, and five times more trusted than politicians generally (14 per cent).

In comparing trust in them over the decade, judges have tumbled nine points, from 77 per cent in 1983 to 68 per cent last year in a MORI survey for the *Times*. By contrast, politicians have fallen 18 per cent to 14 per cent, but then judges had further to fall. In percentage terms, there has been a 12 per cent drop in trust in judges while politicians generally have fallen 22 per cent.

But then, journalists have taken the biggest fall of all, some 47 per cent. Nineteen per cent of the public trusted journalists to tell the truth in 1983 but it was only 10 per cent in our most recent measure.

RESPECTFULLY,
ROBERT WORCESTER
Chairman
MORI: Market & Opinion
Research International
London, SW1
6 November

Little choice on nursery vouchers

From Councillor Lord Tope
Sir: Edward Lister ("Choice begins in the nursery", 3 November) proves that the language of Wandsworth council is indeed unique. His vision of lots of happy parents shopping around with their nursery vouchers until they have found exactly the right nursery schools for their children is unlikely to be the result of the Government's latest experiment with our children's education.

The more likely outcome is that those parents who can afford the higher costs of private nursery provision will receive a subsidy for their fees, while less well-off parents will have to watch their local authority nurseries being closed as the Government withdraws funding from council budgets to pay for this scheme. Parents are also likely to find that their £1,100 vouchers form only a contribution to higher nursery fees.

All but four local education authorities, including those run by Tories, are currently expressing choice – the choice to have nothing to do with this impractical scheme. They are choosing instead to continue providing what is really wanted by parents, high-quality, low-cost nursery provision for all.

People therefore have the benefit of both approaches and can choose which route is suitable for them. Let us hope the Lord Chancellor looks over his shoulder to see that Scotland is showing the way forward.

Yours sincerely,
STEPHEN J. BRAND
Leader of Sutton Council
Sutton, Surrey

3 November

The writer is Liberal Democrat
education spokesperson in the
House of Lords.

Israel: torn apart by two forms of terrorism

From Mr Oliver Kamm
Sir: Your comparison of Yitzhak Rabin (leading article, 6 November) to the late Egyptian president Anwar Sadat is apt. Sadat was indeed, like Rabin, a brave man murdered by religious fanatics, but he deployed his courage in order to gain land – the 90 per cent of the territories occupied by Israel after the Six-Day War which were returned to Egypt under the Camp David accord. Rabin's courage was of a different quality and a higher order, for it led to Israel's relinquishing territory in the hope of diminishing the threat to its security. I share your wish that such a course should succeed, but deplore your reluctance to acknowledge the awesome risks that Israel runs in pursuing it.

That the official opposition in them over the decade, judges have tumbled nine points, from 77 per cent in 1983 to 68 per cent last year in a MORI survey for the *Times*. By contrast, politicians have fallen 18 per cent to 14 per cent, but then judges had further to fall. In percentage terms, there has been a 12 per cent drop in trust in judges while politicians generally have fallen 22 per cent.

In comparing trust in them over the decade, judges have tumbled nine points, from 77 per cent in 1983 to 68 per cent last year in a MORI survey for the *Times*. By contrast, politicians have fallen 18 per cent to 14 per cent, but then judges had further to fall. In percentage terms, there has been a 12 per cent drop in trust in judges while politicians generally have fallen 22 per cent.

But then, journalists have taken the biggest fall of all, some 47 per cent. Nineteen per cent of the public trusted journalists to tell the truth in 1983 but it was only 10 per cent in our most recent measure.

RESPECTFULLY,
ROBERT WORCESTER
Chairman
MORI: Market & Opinion
Research International
London, SW1
6 November

Calm advice from Scotland

From Mr Stephen J. Brand
Sir: Polly Toynbee ("Lord Mackay's well-intentioned fiasco", 25 October) sums up well the concern for the Lord Chancellor's proposals creating a two-tier system in divorce law. The worry is that the Lord Chancellor is putting too much faith in mediation and punishing those that don't use mediation by potentially withdrawing legal aid.

Mediation is a very valuable alternative, but it is exactly that, an alternative route to resolving conflict. It is not a substitute. Mediation should be encouraged and promoted but it should be run in conjunction with court-based remedies and certainly not in place of it.

In Scotland we have a unique opportunity to show the way forward. In Calm (Comprehensive Accredited Lawyer Mediators), we have a group of specialised family lawyers who have been accredited by the Scottish Law Society as family mediators. They have been trained in mediation techniques to provide an all-issues (financial and children) mediation service. In addition, the Scottish Legal Aid Board will fund mediation, so it is available to all parties.

People therefore have the benefit of both approaches and can choose which route is suitable for them. Let us hope the Lord Chancellor looks over his shoulder to see that Scotland is showing the way forward.

Yours sincerely,
STEPHEN J. BRAND
Press Officer
Calm
Broughty Ferry, Tayside
1 November

Food and caring come on wheels

From Mrs P. J. Litherland
Sir: As a volunteer for meals-on-wheels services I welcome publicity, especially as I know every effort is made to improve the service ("The fast lane beckons for meals on wheels", 2 November). The worry is that the Lord Chancellor is putting too much faith in mediation and punishing those that don't use mediation by potentially withdrawing legal aid.

Mediation is a very valuable alternative, but it is exactly that, an alternative route to resolving conflict. It is not a substitute. Mediation should be encouraged and promoted but it should be run in conjunction with court-based remedies and certainly not in place of it.

In Scotland we have a unique opportunity to show the way forward. In Calm (Comprehensive Accredited Lawyer Mediators), we have a group of specialised family lawyers who have been accredited by the Scottish Law Society as family mediators. They have been trained in mediation techniques to provide an all-issues (financial and children) mediation service. In addition, the Scottish Legal Aid Board will fund mediation, so it is available to all parties.

People therefore have the benefit of both approaches and can choose which route is suitable for them. Let us hope the Lord Chancellor looks over his shoulder to see that Scotland is showing the way forward.

Yours sincerely,
P. J. LITHERLAND
Wallasey, Merseyside
3 November

From Mr D. J. Bell
Sir: Your correspondent has missed half the point of meals on wheels. Until recently, following a stroke, my mother received the excellent meals-on-wheels service of the London borough of Haringey. For me the big advantage of this was that every day, seven days a week, someone called on her and knew that she was all right. As well as providing this check, for many elderly recipients the daily call is the only human contact which they have on many days; it is only a fleeting contact, but none the less valuable.

As for the elderly being afraid to complain – that is nonsense. If they have a complaint they certainly voice it; we note it and if appropriate act on it. We also receive lots of gratitude and thanks. Yours faithfully,
D. J. BELL
Standon, Herefordshire
4 November

Origins of the IEA

From Ms Linda Whetstone
Sir: Your report "Any ideas to spare?" (9 October) states that the Institute of Economic Affairs was founded in 1957 by Arthur Seldon and Lord Harris of High Cross. In fact, it was founded on 9 November 1955, by Antony Fisher, with Ralph Harris joining it in 1957. You also claim that it was "financed by millions made from battery chickens by Antony Fisher". In fact, his business involved chickens kept on deep-lit

ter rather than in battery cages, and he neither made "millions" nor left them to the IEA. After founding the IEA, Sir Antony's financial role, in the early years, was the crucial one of guarantor to the fledgling institute, the initial success of which limited demands upon him to a few thousand pounds of a year. He was chairman until his death in 1988, when he left a modest estate, none of which went to the IEA. Yours sincerely,
LINDA WHETSTONE
Hartfield, Sussex

Letters should be addressed to Letters to the Editor, and include a daytime telephone number. (Fax 0171-293 2056; e-mail: letters@independent.co.uk) Letters may be edited for length and clarity.

Hunting for a consensus

From Lord Mancroft
Sir: In his letter of 3 November, Elliot Morley's contribution to the hunting debate is so feeble and transparent that it invites questions as to his ability to be Labour's spokesman on animal welfare, and on the issue of postage stamps issued in their honour.

Until Israel and Western countries, particularly the United States, recognise this aspect of extreme Zionism, there is little hope of achieving a peace that will be acceptable to the majority of Jewish Israelis and Arab Palestinians.

Yours faithfully,
CHARLES HUGHES
Feliztowe, Suffolk
6 November

For a start, I hope the Israeli government will put an immediate stop to all actions that amount to state terrorism. Then we will be able to hope that peace in the region will prevail. Terrorism by individuals, groups or even states should not be tolerated.

SHAICK MOHAMMAD
Croydon, Surrey
6 November

From Mr Arthur Freeman
Sir: Deborah Pritchett and Jonathan Regal, writing about the assassination of the Prime Minister of Israel (Letters, 6 November), claim that a Jew who acts against his own laws in this way must be "a Jew who has no religion". On the contrary, Yigal Amir is a religious Jew who says he acted on the orders of God; whereas Yitzhak Rabin, like Theodore Herzl himself, was a secular Jew who had no religion. Anyway, there are plenty of murders in Jewish scripture and Jewish history.

Yours faithfully,
ARTHUR FREEMAN
London, E1
6 November

Amendments were consequently agreed by all parties concerned, which were passed unanimously at committee stage. The Bill then had an unopposed report and third reading, and today returns, vastly improved, to the House of Commons exactly 15 days after it read the Lords.

Again the Lords have demonstrated that common sense and desire to reach consensus on animal welfare infinitely better than Mr Morley's high-handed and aggressive tactics.

Yours sincerely,
MANCROFT
House of Lords
London, SW1
3 November

Share of the vote

From Mr David Guinness
Sir: Tony Blair should treat the railway self-privatisation schemes with a modicum of respect. They widen ownership of shares and, following general election, front the shareholders with new prospect. If the Conservatives don't win, their shares go down.

The 1992 election illustrates this. Polling day was on 9 April. On 1 April the opinion polls projected a seven-point Labour lead. The following day, the FTSE-100 dropped 54 points and 10 million private shareholders were given the unambiguous message "a Labour victory means a drop in the price of my shares". This influenced the result of the election.

No doubt buyers of rail equities will be discouraged in previous privatisations – selling their shares before election. So what will new Labour do to reassure these individuals about the value of their shares after polling day?

Yours sincerely,
DAVID GUINNESS
Stroud,
Gloucestershire
2 November

JULY 1995

comment

Where is Ulster's Yitzhak Rabin?

Unlike South Africa and Palestine, Northern Ireland lacks leaders who dare to push for peace

Three gaps in the cloud, three moments of gun-silence, have dominated Nineties diplomacy: the South African breakthrough; the Middle East peace process; and the Northern Irish peace process. Together, they sum up many of our hopes for a better post-tribal world.

The age of political heroism is not over, and as British and Irish leaders return from paying tribute to an assassinated peacemaker in Israel, it is worth dwelling on the lessons of these three attempts at reconciliation.

They share striking similarities. In each case, the conflict was caused by the settlement, or migration, of one "advanced" people into a less developed one. The arrivals of the modern Jewish settlers, the Boer colonists, and the Scottish Protestant planters in Ulster came hundreds of years apart, but they were all violent dismemberers of the modern among agrarian, traditional societies, whose consequences heavily mark the world today.

Each of the incoming groups saw themselves, and in many cases still see themselves, as a people chosen by God, spiritually as well as morally and technologically superior to the surrounding Arabs, Africans or Irish. These farming peoples were seen, by contrast, as vicious, superstitious, untrustworthy. They responded by turning, eventually, to rebellion.

Yet in no case have the rebels "won". Change also came from inside the three mind-lagers. None proved impermeable to modern liberalism and rationalism. The pariah-status of apartheid South Africa became intolerable for white voters. Israel, dependent on US aid, has produced, along-

side its fundamentalists, a generation thirsty for peace. In Northern Ireland, another economy dependent on outside aid, something similar has happened: Ulster is not immune to the benign bacillus of relativism.

The other examples remind us that the path to peace is a dangerous and violent one. Necklacing, shootings, punishment beatings, the splintering off of extremists and, yes, assassinations, may all happen on the way - yet without closing the way. Peacemaking is disorienting and uncomfortable. Murderers are released. Former terrorists swagger and preen.

More widely, moving from parochial, divided societies to calm democracies is a rugged process. The high levels of violent crime in Johannesburg, the militancy throughout Palestine and the gangsterism of Belfast are reminders that civic order and democratic restraint cannot be declared by treaty-makers but must be slowly learned by whole societies. They drop slow on troubled times.

These are lessons about how change happens: they are an antidote to panic. But ominously for Northern Ireland, there are differences too. For in the Middle East and South Africa, the drive towards peace needed great men. Individuals mattered - at this point in the story, we shut Hegel and reach for the Carlyle.

South Africa would now be a blood-soaked arena for race war, and Palestine would be in continued revolt, had not leaders arisen on both sides who were hardliners, who then changed their minds. To accomplish change they needed to be trusted by their own people - big people, revered people.

ANDREW MARR
Columnist of the Year

If Adams wasn't hated, he wouldn't be worth trying to negotiate with

Mandela had this trust because of his years in confinement; de Klerk had been a hard man of apartheid himself; Rabin was the young Haganah fighter and the military leader of the Six-Day War; Arafat was Palestine's icon through years of exile and terror.

Northern Ireland, by contrast, has a number of competing leaders on each side. Were there an historic handshake of the White House lawn variety, which Titans would be involved? The truth is that neither Northern nationalism nor Unionism has thrown up a single peacemaker with the internal authority or status of the South Africans or Middle-Easterners.

It may be painful to say so, but Sinn Fein is nearer, Gerry Adams, as a suspected young Provo commander and then an IRA apologist, has the first qualification; he is trusted by most of his people. That he is so hated by the other people merely makes the point; if he wasn't hated, he wouldn't be

worth trying to negotiate with. Adams, though, is still only part of the jumble of pan-nationalism; when he speaks strategically, it is as half of that oracular hybrid known as Hume-Adams.

On the Unionist side, the division of the main parties, and the split between parliamentarians and local militants has, likewise, prevented any single strong leader emerging. It is possible that David Trimble may come through as the voice that Ulster Unionism both trusts and can unite around; his energy and ability to play different audiences is promising. A man being courted by President Clinton, who can yet set the crowds roaring at Portadown could yet be one half of the handshake.

He wouldn't like the implication. Not yet, anyway. But the more Trimble advances, the better for the peace process. Unionism needs its de Klerk or Rabin. That Unionist politicians are so concerned about the possibility of assassination doesn't make that any easier to say today, but it remains true. One of the problems of peace processes is that politicians, as distinct from their followers, are put at more risk. They have enemies behind them as well as in front.

Given that Northern Ireland lacks the two trusted and strong leaders that the Middle East and South African processes had, it is still utterly dependent on outside help - though here "outside" is a relative term, since it includes both London and Dublin. The worrying thing is that today it is the governments as well as the local parties who are frustrated and mutually uncomprehending.

The British government, having offered a new set of "twin-track" talks

designed to put the issue of the decommissioning of arms into abeyance while political progress is made on other questions, is irritated that neither the Irish government nor Sinn Fein is moving. They, in turn, see the British as threatening the peace process by refusing to countenance direct all-party talks until weapons are handed over by the IRA.

Various chess-moves involving prisoners, remission, the withdrawal of another British regiment and so on have occurred as both sides try to demonstrate their flexibility before President Clinton arrives to visit both the South and the North of Ireland later this month. But neither John Major nor John Bruton in Dublin has been prepared to put new pressure on the Unionists or Sinn Fein over the central question of weapons.

If they will not, they need to ask themselves whether it is time to pass the initiative back to the local parties.

For there is one final lesson from the other larger-communities, and it is this. Such a weight of history, such hatred bred in the bone, cannot be broken except by leaders who are prepared, again and again, to dare, to push things until they are regarded as traitors by their own hardest-line supporters. It is this acceleration that Northern Ireland, caught between different powers and parties, has lacked over the past months.

No leader who has stood before that solitary coffin on Mount Herzl can doubt the dangers of peacemaking, of keeping the pressure on when reason says, relax. But Rabin died a hero in a world which is, just maybe, losing its love of thugs. He knew what he was doing. We need a man like him.

A handful of Tory MPs must not be allowed to scuttle reform of divorce laws, says Teresa Gorman

No backbenchers in the bedroom

The man in the middle of the mud-
dle over marriage, Lord Mackay,
is the most unlikely man in the whole
of the Cabinet to be accused of treachery.
Approachable and without an ounce of pomposity, he is taking
the flack in the media for undermining
family values.

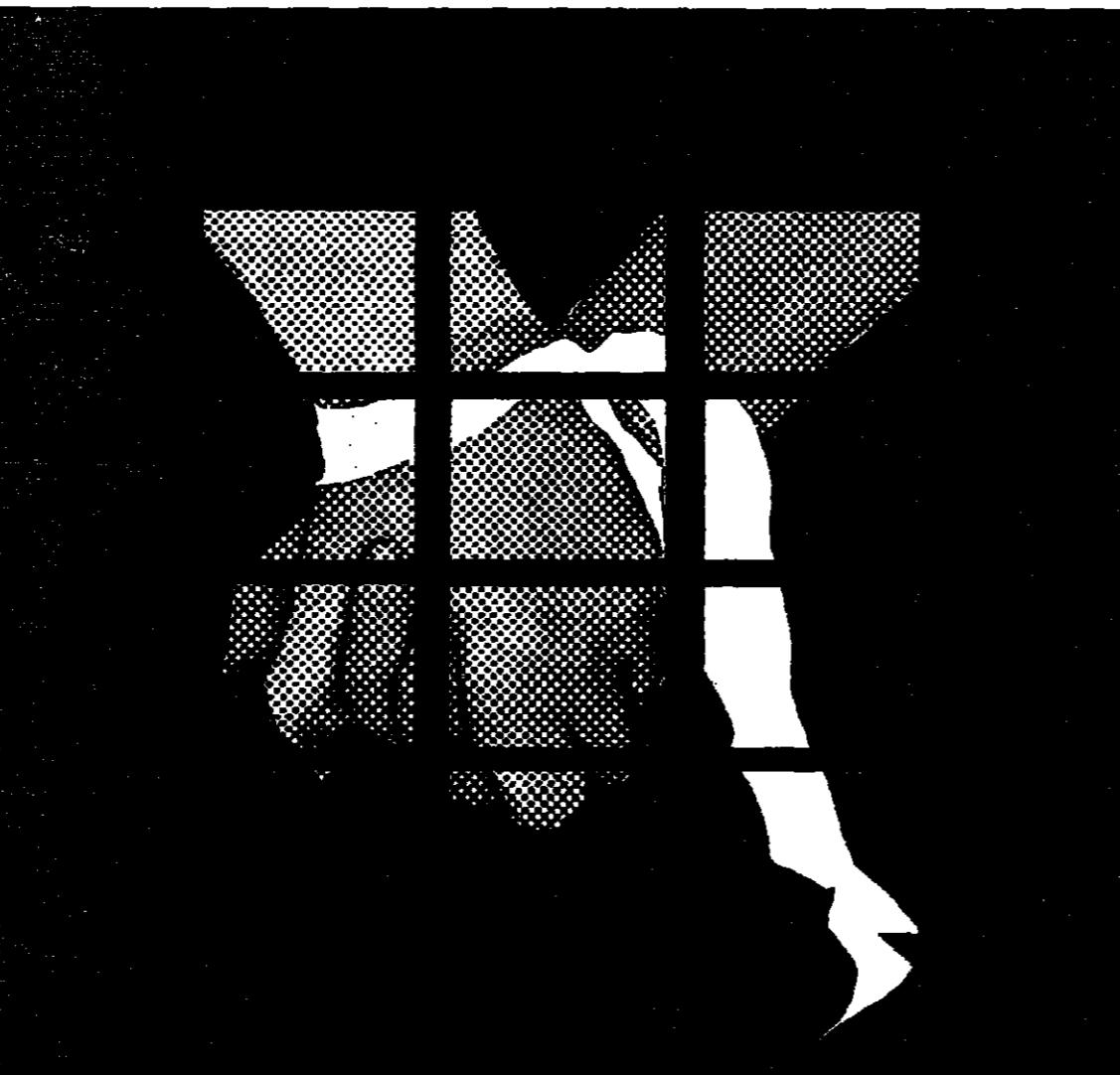
The Family Homes and Domestic
Violence Bill has been in the pipeline
since 1992. It has been through all its
government stages except the final one
in the Commons and it has the support
of many church leaders, the Law
Society and charities such as Refuge
that deal with the victims of domestic
violence. It is difficult to decide
whether the Government climb-down
is the result of a handful of back-
benchers or whether it is a panic reaction
to a newspaper campaign in the run-up
to a general election. Either way, the Government would do well

The Government would
do well to stick to its
guns and support the
Lord Chancellor

to stick to its guns and support the
Lord Chancellor. But you only need a tiny handful of
backwoods backbenchers to turn a
newspaper campaign into an alleged
attack on the foundations of our society.
Several of those who charged off
to vent their spleen on the Lord
Chancellor admitted privately that
they had never heard of the Family
Homes and Domestic Violence Bill
until they picked up their copy of the
Daily Mail last Monday morning. But
now we have ditched a Bill designed
to protect all children and women
from violence that takes place in the
family home. They will have to wait a
little longer before they get the protection
of the law.

Despite claims to the contrary, the
family is alive albeit changing. One in
three marriages ends in divorce, but
two-thirds are successful. And behind
the myth of the ideal family lies a
variety of relationships which people
describe as family life: one parent, foster,
second marriages and people living
together because one partner cannot
get a divorce.

Many couples live together in stable
relationships, sometimes because
one of them cannot obtain a divorce
from a previous partner. Like marriages,
these relationships can break
down, but whereas both partners in a



A fifth of the legal aid budget is spent on settling the break-up of relationships made more messy by our refusal to acknowledge that marriages can and do go irretrievably wrong. The cost is rising alarmingly - in 1990 it was £87m - by 1995 it had spiralled to £296m and it is still rising.

The second proposal from Lord Mackay to simplify divorce is long overdue. Where a marriage is dead it is best buried with as little animosity and grief as possible. Under his proposals, instead of alleging misconduct and raking up old grievances, either partner could file for divorce. A year would go by during which the couple could seek mediation and sort out their responsibilities, hopefully without resort to the courts. At present, they must go through an acrimonious row in front of a judge, fighting over the custody

of the children, the family home, pension rights and property, rubbing salt into the wound.

The state should not try to force couples who have attempted a relationship and failed to resort to violence and abuse, real or manufactured, in order to resolve their difficulties.

The Government has a duty to protect people from violent behaviour inside or outside of their domestic arrangements. But it should not increase the sum total of human misery in the vain hope that a patched-up relationship will somehow be better for society.

Marriage or living together or divorce are all private matters between two individuals and certainly, where there are no children, they should be able to end the arrangement with the minimum of interference from the state. I would infinitely rather trust two adults to sort out their problems than have a group of backwoods MPs imposing their views on how the rest of us should live our lives.

Lord Mackay is bringing the law into line with reality. He is honest and decent and he should be supported. We should not try to use the courts to put the clock back.

The writer is Conservative MP for Bitterley.

against children, wives and the elderly are committed within the family circle.

The Family Homes and Domestic Violence Bill would have provided for the first time a uniform code of remedies for victims of violence in the home.

In formal marriage, a woman's property rights are clearly protected by, among other things, the Married Women's Property Act. But where she is cohabiting and she is neither the tenant nor the owner her rights are almost non-existent.

The whole area is a minefield, making it difficult for lawyers to advise women on how to protect themselves or go about re-establishing their rights to use the family home and care for their children.

Lord Mackay presides over one of

the largest spending departments in the Government. A good Scot, in a tight spending round, he has found a way to save the pennies through the humane and admirable device of simplifying the way people can separate when their relationship is dead. If he has a weakness in the murky world of politics, it is that he is not a street-fighter. All the more reason to protect him from a handbagging by a handful of MPs who see him as condoning living in sin and the Bill as a "Fornicators' Charter".

The law has the right to expect both partners to accept the obligations of the relationship and equal responsibility in safeguarding the future of any children. But apart from that we should keep politics out of it and stop pretending that we can return to some imaginary Utopia.

of the children, the family home, pension rights and property, rubbing salt into the wound.

The state should not try to force

people from violent behaviour

inside or outside of their domestic

arrangements. But it should not

increase the sum total of human

misery in the vain hope that a

patched-up relationship will somehow be better for society.

by Tony Reeve and Steve Way

Generation Why

Good evening,
I am the news

Nobody thinks that television newscasters will get into trouble, so when they do, who can they turn to? To Auntie News, of course, our very own TV Newsreader. Agony Aunt! All yours, Auntie...

What should a newscaster do when he or she is reading out an item about himself or herself? For instance, if Trevor McDonald is appointed to head a unit dedicated to improving the standard of English, or Julia Somerville is questioned about the photographs she sends to Boots the Chemist, should he or she deal with the item reporting on immediately?

Well, I think appearing in a news item comes under this heading. If one of the newscasters is mentioned in an item, the other should read it.

In other words, should Trevor McDonald, all straightforward-faced, say: "The ITN newscaster Trevor McDonald was today appointed to be head of a unit dedicated to improving the standard of English," and thus talk about the standard of English, which seems a little too much on the chatty side? And which might be confusing to people who are watching the news for the first time and have no idea who Trevor McDonald is?

Should he perhaps have tried to mix the two approaches, conventional and personal, as in: "The ITN newscaster Trevor McDonald was today appointed to be head of a unit dedicated to improving the standard of English. When he was asked to comment on his appointment, I said that I was very happy to be involved with the venture?"

Or would this lead to further complications, as in: "The ITN newscaster Trevor McDonald was today appointed to be head of a unit dedicated to improving the standard of English. When he was asked to comment on his appointment, I said that I was very happy to be involved with the venture."

Or is Julia Somerville the newscaster a different person, in an existentialist sense, from Julia Somerville the subject of a news item? Isn't it rather Brechtian for a person to read out a news item about herself as if she were someone else?

Auntie News writes: No. I think it's more Stoppardian than anything.

If you are one of a pair of newscasters and the other one collapses, and you have to do it all yourself, should you mention their collapse as a news item?

Auntie News writes: No. Only if the other one dies on air. It's only a newscaster, after all.

What can you do to prevent people at Boots the Chemist reporting your innocent bath-time photos to the police?

Auntie News writes: Easy. Always wear a mask in the bath.



MILES KINGTON

pleased? Or indifferent? Do you wave your hand in recognition at your adoring viewers? Should the other newscaster ask for an immediate interview?

And if you are Julia Somerville, and the item about your bath-time photos is big enough to make the news, then shouldn't you be asked on air for your reactions? After all, it isn't often that a news item involves someone who is actually present in the studio when it is being read out, is it?

Or is Julia Somerville the newscaster a different person, in an existentialist sense, from Julia Somerville the subject of a news item? Isn't it rather Brechtian for a person to read out a news item about herself as if she were someone else?

Auntie News writes: No. I think it's more Stoppardian than anything.

If you are one of a pair of newscasters and the other one collapses, and you have to do it all yourself, should you mention their collapse as a news item?

Auntie News writes: No. Only if the other one dies on air. It's only a newscaster, after all.

What can you do to prevent people at Boots the Chemist reporting your innocent bath-time photos to the police?

Auntie News writes: Easy. Always wear a mask in the bath.

SAVE UP TO
70% ON
INTERNATIONAL
CALLS.

Destination	First Telecom	Mercury	Save %
USA	10p	29p	66%
India	68p	96p	29%
South Africa	40p	62p	35%
Hong Kong	35p	56p	38%
Japan	40p	75p	53%
Australia	25p	45p	44%
Brazil	64p	85p	25%
Canada	17p	29p	41%
Germany/France	18p	22p	18%

★ Savings to 100's of countries

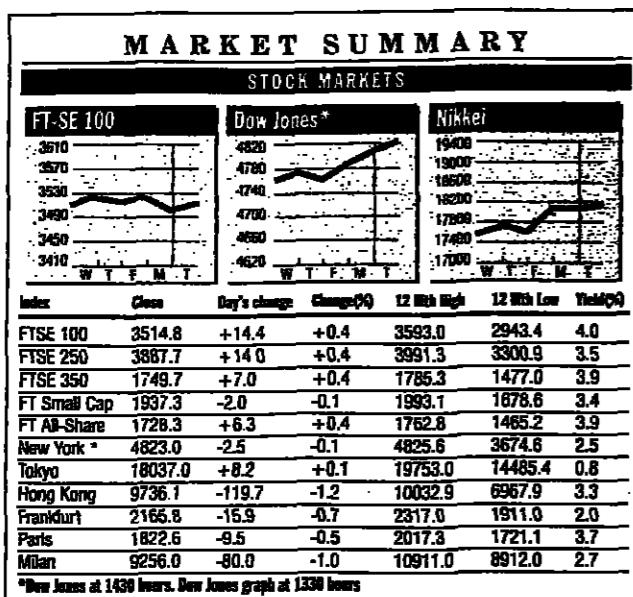
★ All major credit cards accepted

★ "Minute Miles" bonus available

★ No start-up costs, membership or joining fees

INDEPENDENT • Tuesday 7 November 1995

BUSINESS NEWS DESK: tel 0171-293 2530 fax 0171-293 2098



IN BRIEF

Kerrison quits troubled Hickson

Dennis Kerrison has quit as chief executive of Hickson International, the Yorkshire chemicals group whose profits tumbled after last year's decision by Unilever to cancel the contract for the detergent additive alleged to rot clothing. Hickson yesterday issued a profits warning, omission of the final dividend and Mr Kerrison's departure. Mr Kerrison could be in line for compensation of up to £360,000 but chairman James Hamm cautions yesterday that the details were still being negotiated.

Investment column, page 22

Tokyo minister backs Daiwa merger

The fate of Daiwa Bank was all but sealed yesterday as the Japanese government imposed further penalties and controls, and the country's Finance Minister, Masayoshi Take-nura, said he supported a merger of Daiwa and Sumitomo Bank. After the US authorities ordered Daiwa to close its American operations for covering up \$1.1bn worth of bond trading losses, the Bank of Japan said it will conduct monthly inspections of Daiwa's operations, and the Ministry of Posts and Telecommunications said that it would cease entrusting Daiwa with the management of new savings and insurance funds.

Sun Alliance moves into France

Sun Alliance, one of the UK's largest insurers, yesterday signalled its European ambitions by buying Tellit, a French telephone-based insurance firm. The purchase of Tellit, designed to spearhead its drive into the French direct market, comes as Sun Alliance faces the loss of £200m in annual insurance premiums from Halifax Building Society. Halifax said yesterday that it would set up its own insurance operation next year.

PIA members eye mortgage products

Consumer members of the Personal Investment Authority, the financial services watchdog, called for mortgage advice to be added to the activities already supervised by the Authority. The call, contained in the regulator's consumer panel report yesterday, follows a critical report from the OFT on mortgage repayment products. The consumer panel also called for joint leaflets from the PIA and the OFT on how to choose a mortgage.

Harrison in timber talks

Harrison & Crosfield is in talks to sell its K&B Forest Products arm to Meyer International. K&B Forest Products, which imports timber and sells it on to distributors, has sales of about £64m a year, compared with overall turnover of £2.1bn for Harrisons and £1.3bn for Meyer.

MP attacks Homepride takeover

The £58.6m acquisition of Dalgety's Homepride by Campbell Soup of the US was described yesterday as "driven by the need to destroy competitive production capacity" by the Labour MP Dale Campbell-Savours. He described Homepride, which has a factory in his constituency, as being a "jewel in Dalgety's crown", making a profit of £4m on a turnover of £28m in this last year.

Financial data

Data transmission problems led to share prices being given incorrectly in Saturday's *Independent*. We apologise for any inconvenience.

MPs want rethink on Bank's role

All-party report raises the prospect of a new body taking over supervision

The Bank of England's powerful position as supervisor of the banking sector is to be dealt a serious blow today as senior MPs call for a full-scale review by the Treasury in the wake of the Barings scandal.

The all-party report on the future of financial services regulation in Britain officially raises for the first time the prospect of the Bank being stripped of its supervisory role. "It is not an inconceivable development that there could ultimately be a free-standing prudential supervisor of banks and building societies under the aegis of the Treasury," said a source on the Treasury and Civil Service Committee, which published the report.

The MPs' committee, chaired by Sir Thomas Arnold, has stopped short of recommending an immediate handing off of the Bank's supervisory powers, but the fact that the majority of Conservative as well as Labour MPs voiced their concern so strongly about the Bank's effectiveness will increase pressure on Eddie George, the Governor. The Bank of England has fought an intense lobbying battle in recent years to defend its role as lead supervisor of the banking sector, alongside its other key responsibility for monetary policy.

The MPs say the Bank's effectiveness as a supervisor has been called into question by the recent collapses of BCCI and Barings. Committee sources said

although the language of the report was relatively restrained and it stopped short of calling for the removal of supervisory powers now, there had been a passionate debate which split the 11-strong group of MPs.

Some of the Labour members called for a radical overhaul of financial regulation in the City, favouring the concentration of regulatory powers – currently split among various bodies on industry lines – into one powerful

overall body more akin to the Securities and Exchange Commission in the US. This body could be based on the Securities and Investment Board, headed by Andrew Large.

The MPs expect they will make further comments on the issue when they have finished their inquiries into the collapse of Barings. The Board of Banking Supervision's report on Barings was highly critical of weaknesses in supervision by the

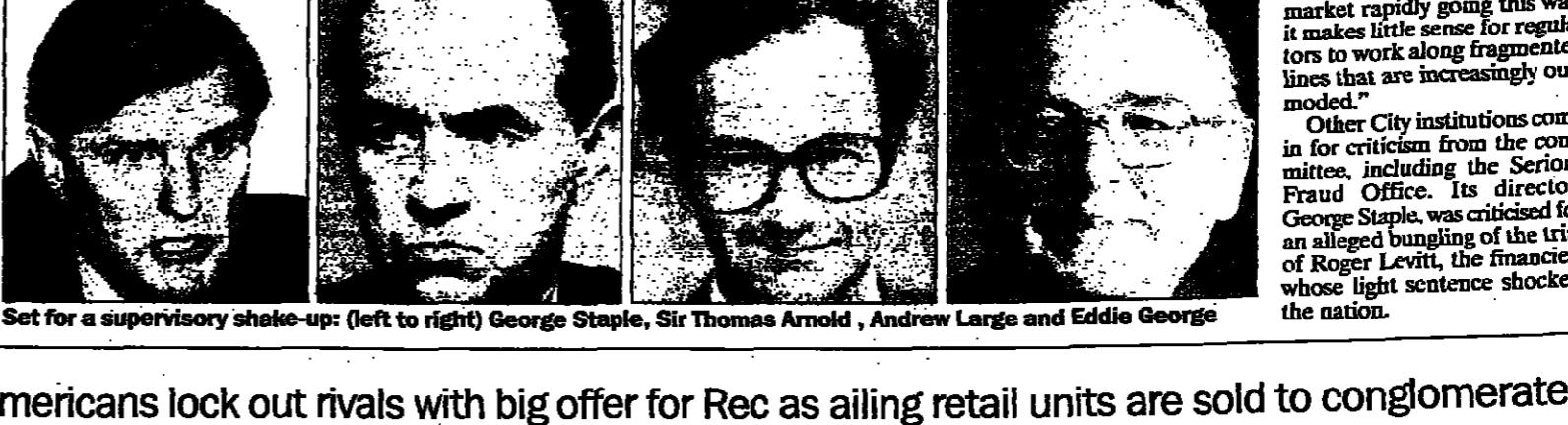
Bank of England. In particular, it questioned whether the Bank possessed the required level of expertise and practitioner-awareness to supervise adequately such sophisticated and rapidly growing areas as the global securities markets.

The Treasury, which has been

asked by the parliamentary committee to review the Bank of England's role, is believed to be increasingly in favour of a thorough reshaping of supervision.

"We need to look at the financial services sector as the firms look at themselves – as integrated businesses," a committee source said. "With the market rapidly going this way, it makes little sense for regulators to work along fragmented lines that are increasingly outmoded."

Other City institutions come in for criticism from the committee, including the Serious Fraud Office. Its director, George Staple, was criticised for an alleged bungling of the trial of Roger Levitt, the financier, whose light sentence shocked the nation.



Power games: Americans lock out rivals with big offer for Rec as ailing retail units are sold to conglomerate

£1.6bn US bid for Seaboard

PETER RODGERS

Business Editor

The US power company Central and South West Corporation, to take over the takeover without compensation, bonus or share option profits, undermining the robust stance it has taken on pay in the electricity utilities.

He attacked in public the decision of National Grid directors to take up a special dividend when the company is floated next month. Seaboard owns 7.3 per cent of National Grid.

The executive board members of Seaboard, who have no bonus scheme, are nevertheless set to make profits of £1.5m before tax on their share options – although this is relatively modest set against the rewards available to some of the other 11 regional electricity company boards.

The highest option profits will be made by Jim Ellis, the chief executive, who is to become chairman and stay on to run Seaboard for the Americans.

His options are showing a pre-tax profit of £550,000, while those of Stephen Gutteridge are worth £495,000 in pre-tax profit. Tony Smith has made £214,000 and John Weight £226,000. The executive directors are remaining on board so will not be receiving any compensation other than option profits as a result of the takeover.

Tom Shockley, president and chief executive of CSW, said: "We are proud of the price we have been able to offer. It's a high price compared to the sector. These companies aren't all the same. We have done a counter-bid for the latest target."

With only five of the regional electricity companies left – including Northern, whose bidder, Trafalgar House, withdrew – the number of available targets is shrinking rapidly.

The share prices of South Wales, Yorkshire, London, East Midlands and Northern all rose sharply as the City looked forward to the next phase of the takeover spree. With nearly a quarter of Seaboard snapped up by CSW's broker, UBS, there seemed little prospect of a counter-bid for the latest target.

The highest option profits will be made by Jim Ellis, the chief executive, who is to become chairman and stay on to run Seaboard for the Americans.

His options are showing a pre-tax profit of £550,000, while those of Stephen Gutteridge are worth £495,000 in pre-tax profit. Tony Smith has made £214,000 and John Weight £226,000. The executive directors are remaining on board so will not be receiving any compensation other than option profits as a result of the takeover.

Tom Shockley, president and chief executive of CSW, said: "We are proud of the price we have been able to offer. It's a high price compared to the sector. These companies aren't all the same. We have done a counter-bid for the latest target."

With only five of the regional electricity companies left – including Northern, whose bidder, Trafalgar House, withdrew – the number of available targets is shrinking rapidly.

The highest option profits will be made by Jim Ellis, the chief executive, who is to become chairman and stay on to run Seaboard for the Americans.

His options are showing a pre-tax profit of £550,000, while those of Stephen Gutteridge are worth £495,000 in pre-tax profit. Tony Smith has made £214,000 and John Weight £226,000. The executive directors are remaining on board so will not be receiving any compensation other than option profits as a result of the takeover.

Tom Shockley, president and chief executive of CSW, said: "We are proud of the price we have been able to offer. It's a high price compared to the sector. These companies aren't all the same. We have done a counter-bid for the latest target."

With only five of the regional electricity companies left – including Northern, whose bidder, Trafalgar House, withdrew – the number of available targets is shrinking rapidly.

The highest option profits will be made by Jim Ellis, the chief executive, who is to become chairman and stay on to run Seaboard for the Americans.

His options are showing a pre-tax profit of £550,000, while those of Stephen Gutteridge are worth £495,000 in pre-tax profit. Tony Smith has made £214,000 and John Weight £226,000. The executive directors are remaining on board so will not be receiving any compensation other than option profits as a result of the takeover.

Tom Shockley, president and chief executive of CSW, said: "We are proud of the price we have been able to offer. It's a high price compared to the sector. These companies aren't all the same. We have done a counter-bid for the latest target."

With only five of the regional electricity companies left – including Northern, whose bidder, Trafalgar House, withdrew – the number of available targets is shrinking rapidly.

The highest option profits will be made by Jim Ellis, the chief executive, who is to become chairman and stay on to run Seaboard for the Americans.

His options are showing a pre-tax profit of £550,000, while those of Stephen Gutteridge are worth £495,000 in pre-tax profit. Tony Smith has made £214,000 and John Weight £226,000. The executive directors are remaining on board so will not be receiving any compensation other than option profits as a result of the takeover.

Tom Shockley, president and chief executive of CSW, said: "We are proud of the price we have been able to offer. It's a high price compared to the sector. These companies aren't all the same. We have done a counter-bid for the latest target."

With only five of the regional electricity companies left – including Northern, whose bidder, Trafalgar House, withdrew – the number of available targets is shrinking rapidly.

The highest option profits will be made by Jim Ellis, the chief executive, who is to become chairman and stay on to run Seaboard for the Americans.

His options are showing a pre-tax profit of £550,000, while those of Stephen Gutteridge are worth £495,000 in pre-tax profit. Tony Smith has made £214,000 and John Weight £226,000. The executive directors are remaining on board so will not be receiving any compensation other than option profits as a result of the takeover.

Tom Shockley, president and chief executive of CSW, said: "We are proud of the price we have been able to offer. It's a high price compared to the sector. These companies aren't all the same. We have done a counter-bid for the latest target."

With only five of the regional electricity companies left – including Northern, whose bidder, Trafalgar House, withdrew – the number of available targets is shrinking rapidly.

The highest option profits will be made by Jim Ellis, the chief executive, who is to become chairman and stay on to run Seaboard for the Americans.

His options are showing a pre-tax profit of £550,000, while those of Stephen Gutteridge are worth £495,000 in pre-tax profit. Tony Smith has made £214,000 and John Weight £226,000. The executive directors are remaining on board so will not be receiving any compensation other than option profits as a result of the takeover.

Tom Shockley, president and chief executive of CSW, said: "We are proud of the price we have been able to offer. It's a high price compared to the sector. These companies aren't all the same. We have done a counter-bid for the latest target."

With only five of the regional electricity companies left – including Northern, whose bidder, Trafalgar House,

JULY 1995

business



COMMENT

There is a sense of inevitability, even boredom, in the markets as the endgame in the electricity restructuring is played out

A pricey benchmark in the electricity sell-off

Central South West has set a new benchmark in bidding £12.70 a share for Seaboard, set against the £9.65 paid by SEI for Swed, the first of the present wave of takeovers, or even the auction-inflated £11.85 that North West Water bid for Norweb, this looks pricey indeed. You don't have to look far to find the explanation. And no, it doesn't have much to do with Seaboard's uniquely attractive qualities, even accepting it has any. Rather it is in Central South West's determination to succeed.

Having failed in conjunction with Houston Industries to acquire Norweb, Central South West was not going to be outgunned again. With just five regional electricity companies unaccounted for, the stock of available brides is getting low. In its determination to pull, Central South West seems prepared to overpay, the more so since its erstwhile partner, Houston, was said to be in hot pursuit of the same gal. The lessons of Norweb have plainly been learned; with UBS in place of Cazenove, CSW moved into the market to make sure of its prize by snapping up 23.9 per cent of the shares.

Disappointed for a second time, Houston now has an effective choice of only three - East Midlands, Yorkshire and London. The other two are thought to have made themselves sufficiently unattractive to deter even the most desperate of American suitors. You never know, however. The list of targets is now so short that even Northern - the outsider of the industry since it took on huge

debts to ward off a bid from Trafalgar House may be back on the list of bid candidates. Of the others left in the game, Yorkshire and Swalec, the South Wales company, are top of most people's lists for a bid. London last week ruled out a merger with Thames Water, but is by no means out of the picture. East Midlands is available at the right price, though that may well be too expensive for some bidders' taste. The problem with Northern is judging what bid premium to pay for such a highly geared company.

There is now a sense of inevitability, even boredom, in the markets as the endgame in the electricity restructuring is played out. Even the Labour Party was unable to work itself up into a lather about it yesterday. The unspoken Government policy is to allow the electricity industry restructuring proceed to its logical conclusion. Three bids - the last one, National Power for Southern and PowerGen for Midlands - have yet to be cleared by Ian Lang, President of the Board of Trade, but it is hard to see him doing anything other than waving them through.

There can be no case for sending the Seaboard bid to the Monopolies Commission since it is a carbon copy of the offer for South Western by Southern Group of the US, which Mr Lang has already cleared. The approval of North West Water's ill-thought-out bid for Norweb can only be seen as a prelude to nodding through the other two. Not that there is anything wrong with this approach. Market forces stand at least as

good a chance of delivering a properly competitive industry structure ahead of full deregulation of electricity supply as the Monopolies and Mergers Commission. With the RECs as they were, the chances of any kind of competitive market developing were pretty much zero.

Positive about Europe but not starry-eyed

It would be easy to dismiss yesterday's survey of business attitudes to Europe as another dull exercise with unexceptional results. After all, the CBI and British Chambers of Commerce have already made their views clear. A survey that shows most businesses want the Government to leave the single currency option open might seem to be both self-serving and unsurprising.

This particular exercise, however, carries a little more weight. For one thing, it is an opinion survey professionally conducted by one of the country's most respected polling organisations. It covered 1,700 businesses of all sizes and types. The results, showing a positive but not starry-eyed attitude to Europe, are the most authoritative we have on business opinions.

For another, the survey allows the two employers' organisations to lobby the Government from a confirmed position of strength against the siren voices of the Euro-sceptics. While there are plainly dif-

ferent shades of opinion about Europe within the business community, it does appear to make sense to talk about a business view. That view is a pragmatic, and broadly sympathetic one; it wants the Government to be in a position to influence EU decisions. A majority of businessmen and women believe there is a danger that British influence in Europe is fading because our partners think we are lukewarm.

There is some evidence to support this contention. The Bundesbank is likely to succeed in its insistence that central banks joining the single currency will have to impose uniform reserve requirements on their banks. This would hit Britain, which has no reserve requirements harder than any other country. If we had not been half-hearted about EMU, the Bank of England might have been better able to resist the proposal.

Indeed, Britain's stayaway stance on EMU is in marked contrast to its very substantial influence on the EU more generally as far as measures affecting business are concerned. It has, for instance, spearheaded drives for deregulation and competition in important European industries such as telecommunications and banking. Most businesses think the EU and the single market have been good for them. More than half believe a single currency would benefit British industry. Although the significant minority sceptical about moves to closer union should certainly not be overlooked, the silent majority sent a clear message yes-

terday to the Europhobes. Nor was it merely of the "if you cannot beat them, join them" variety. It was more positive than that. It was that monetary union might actually be good for business.

Defaulting on debt better not spoken about

The currency markets took it seriously, the US bond market ignored it - a warning from apparently senior US Treasury officials that the US might be forced to default on its debts unless Congress raises the ceiling on what the Federal authorities are allowed to borrow. Such threats are not taken too seriously on the other side of the pond, where they are part of the cut and thrust of budgetary jousting with Congress. Even spoken in jest, however, it is a pretty extraordinary thing to threaten. Not since the Civil War have the American authorities defaulted on their debt and even then it was only the Confederates. If such a thing were hinted at by anyone in authority in Britain, it would spell death for the gilt-edged market. Investors buy bonds because they are thought of as bonds; no bond market can be credible if there is sizeable risk of default. The US Treasury officials threatening default may not be serious, but if they value their bond market they would be wise to keep quiet. There is of course no prospect of default. Congress wouldn't dare do it, even to Bill Clinton.

Manufacturing decline fuelled by lower car production

Hopes of rate cut rise as output falls

DIANE COYLE
Economics Correspondent

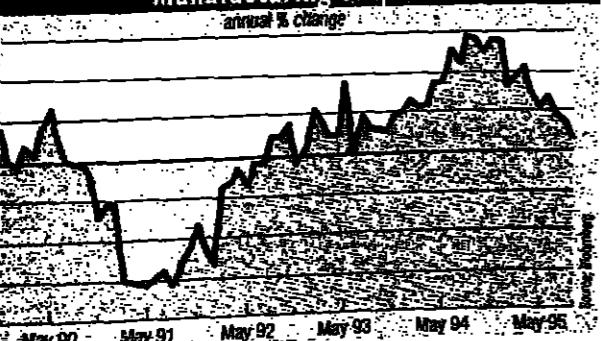
Hopes of a base rate cut by Christmas were boosted yesterday by figures showing an unexpected drop in manufacturing output in September.

The news of the decline, partly due to sharply lower car production, came as Ford announced that it has shut down production at its Halewood plant on Merseyside this week because of the slump in the home and export markets, and might impose another week-long shutdown later this month.

"If the Budget is as tough as we expect, interest rates could be cut soon after 23 November," said Simon Briscoe, UK economist at Nikko Europe. However, most analysts believe the Bank of England will not have changed its inflation prediction in its quarterly Inflation Report tomorrow. If so, the governor is unlikely to accept the case for a fall in base rates.

"I do not think we will get the message that the Bank would be happy with lower interest rates," said Robert Barrie, UK economist at BZW. "If so, the Chancellor would have to overrule the governor."

Manufacturing output



Adam Cole of brokers James Capel said: "The debate about base rates will not be resolved until we see whether we have simply a pause in growth or a slowdown." Financial market reaction to the Budget would also be crucial, he added.

The disappointing figures for manufacturing output - back at its lowest level since April - raised fears that growth is becoming worryingly sluggish. Although the Treasury said the economy was growing at a sustainable rate, the Central Statistical Office yesterday said trend growth in manufacturing had slowed to 0.5 per cent, compared with 1 per cent in August.

Manufacturers are probably cutting output to reduce their inventory levels, which had built up strongly in the first half of the year, economists agreed. But opinions differed over how severe the inventory correction might prove. Recent surveys of manufacturing have been more buoyant than the official figures, although the surveys also reveal a slowdown in growth.

Manufacturing output fell 0.6 per cent in September, while August's increase was revised down by half to 0.3 per cent. The decline was spread across most industries. The biggest falls were in engineering and the food, drink and tobacco industry, both down 1.3 per cent during the month, accounting for two-thirds of the fall in manufacturing.

A reversal of strong heatwave-related sales in August explained the weakness in food and drink. Lower car output dominated the drop in engineering. It fell 6.7 per cent in September, while output of car parts and accessories was 3.8 per cent lower. Ian Thompson of the Engineering Employers' Federation said: "We are disappointed but not surprised." Both Ford and GM had reduced output because of high stock levels. Peugeot has had some one-day shutdowns.

Separate figures from the Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders yesterday showed an 11 per cent rebound in new-car registrations last month, after a weak September.

Manufacturing output grew 0.2 per cent in the July-September quarter, taking it to a level 1.2 per cent higher than a year earlier. A big increase in energy output helped industrial production rise 0.5 per cent in September. Maintenance work in the North Sea and lower demand for energy during the hot summer had led to an earlier dip. Industrial output climbed 0.5 per cent in the third quarter as a whole, taking it to a level 1.3 per cent higher than a year earlier.

Separate figures on insolvencies from accountancy firm Touche Ross added to concern about the economy's weakness. There were a total of 213 appointments to administration and receivership last month, compared with 145 in September and 184 in October 1994.

Businesses back single currency

DIANE COYLE
Economics Correspondent

British businesses are firmly in favour of keeping open the option to join a single European currency, and think political squabbling over Europe is damaging business interests.

Sir Bryan Nicholson, president of the Confederation of British Industry, presenting the results of the biggest ever survey of business attitudes to Europe, said yesterday: "We must be aware of the danger that the UK's loss of credibility and influence poses to business prospects."

Robin Geldard, president of the British Chambers of Commerce, said: "Business would like the Government to come down firmly on the basis that we stay in Europe and take a leading part in Europe."

The business community tends to favour European monetary union, according to a survey of 1,700 firms conducted by MORI for the CBI and BCC. A clear majority favour keeping all options open.

A majority are also against exiting our membership of the single currency during the life-time of the next parliament - an idea said to appeal to the Prime Minister.

Only one in eight reject EMU outright, although nearly a third say it would not benefit or would damage British business prospects.

But adding the 8 per cent who

want to keep the option open to joining the single currency, a clear majority favour keeping the option open.

More than half the firms surveyed believe the political debate about Britain's commitment to Europe is harming their commercial interests. Only a fifth said it helped the Government's ability to promote British interests.

The respondents are also critical of Britain's "over-zealousness" in implementing European Union regulations.

This was cited by 44 per cent of firms as a factor behind unfair competition in Europe, followed by uneven enforcement of regulations by other EU countries, cited by 41 per cent, and illegal state aid in other countries, blamed by 22 per cent.

However, there are clear majorities in favour of two specific Government policies: the opt-out on the single currency, and rejection of the Social Chapter. Four-fifths of the companies surveyed are against the EU's social measures. Promotion of more flexible labour markets and skills training are seen as the priorities for social policy.

More than two-thirds of firms think EU membership has increased inward investment into the UK. There is also support for the single market, with just over half saying it had improved business opportunities within the EU.

But adding the 8 per cent who

want to keep the option open to joining the single currency, a clear majority favour keeping the option open to joining the single currency.

The Institute of Directors, which has a membership weighted more towards small businesses, remains hostile to EMU.

Businesses are strongly against giving more powers to the European Parliament, but tentatively in favour of extending qualified majority voting by EU members in order to complete the single market more quickly.

Yesterday's survey confirms the result of earlier informal surveys by both the CBI and BCC. A survey of members by the CBI a year ago showed a greater proportion of respondents were then in favour of being in the leading group of countries to join the single currency, but the proportion in favour of keeping options open

Dollar hit by budget deadlock

New York (Bloomberg) - The dollar weakened yesterday against major currencies on worries that political deadlock in budget negotiations could hit the US government's fund-raising programme. Treasury officials warned that the US could be forced to default on its debts as soon as this month unless the government can press ahead with its note auctions.

The delay on note auctions follows a refusal by the Republicans in Congress to raise the debt ceiling, as a bargaining lever to force President Clinton to bow to their plans for balancing the federal budget within seven years.

The dollar closed in London at DM1.41, against 1.4160 late on Friday in New York. The London close against the yen was Y102.9, down on 103.90 late on Friday in New York.

The Treasury auction of \$31.5bn (£19.5m) in three and 10-year notes scheduled from today and tomorrow is now likely to be postponed because it would force the Treasury through the \$4.9trillion national debt ceiling. Most traders expect the government to avoid default by arranging a temporary debt limit increase.

A default would raise US borrowing costs, and might prompt overseas investors to cut their holdings of US assets.

Myers Squibb will be discussed today and tomorrow. One view is that Invirase, and other so-called "protease inhibitors" that interfere with the reproduction of the virus, are the first of a new generation of anti-Aids drugs, and could double the market to over \$1bn annually.

By contrast, some analysts believe that, by 2000, Epivir, a similar compound to AZT, could only be worth around £200m on its own to Glaxo, and perhaps £250m when it reaches its peak. Even in combination with AZT, the potential might be only £400m to £500m, much less than the £2.4bn sales of Glaxo's blockbuster Zantac anti-ulcer drug last year.

3TC was discovered in 1989 by BioChem Pharma, a Canadian company, with Glaxo, as it then was, taking licensing and development rights the following year. In September, results of the so-called Delta trial involving medical research agencies in seven European countries and Australia showed substantial clinical benefits using 3TC with AZT over using AZT on its own, although no evidence of improved mortality. Glaxo Wellcome, headed by Sir Richard Sykes, believes that its particular combination may offer improved side-effects compared with other so-called drug cocktails.

City sources close to United News and Media, which owns the *Sunday Express* and *Daily Express*, were keen to dampen speculation that a sale was being planned. City analysts doubted that any purchaser, with the possible exception of Sir Andrew or Michael Green's Carlton Communications Group, would be prepared to pay the £300m plus needed to persuade United's Lord Stevens to let a sale go through.

The rumours of a possible sale have been fuelled by the recent appointment of the merged

bank, Hambros, to come up with a strategy for the titles, which have struggled in competition with the more successful *Daily Mail* and the *Mail on Sunday*.

The Really Useful Group was floated in 1986 but was taken private again four years later when Sir Andrew felt he would do better without enduring the rigours of a stock market quote. The company, now 30% owned by Polygram, the entertainment giant, is expanding into the audio-visual sector and multimedia.

Glaxo boosted by anti-Aids drug prospects

MAGNUS GRIMOND



High hopes: Sir Richard Sykes, chief executive of Glaxo Wellcome, who believes that Epivir represents an advance in the treatment of Aids

Photograph: John Voos

Shares in Glaxo Wellcome jumped 20p to 871p yesterday fuelled by the expectation that a new anti-Aids treatment to be marketed by the drug giant would be recommended for approval by key US regulatory authorities.

In New York, the company's American depository receipts gained \$4/2 to \$27.80 ahead of the outcome of the meeting.

The anti-viral drugs advisory committee of the federal Food and Drug Administration was yesterday reviewing the new 3TC compound, now known under the trade name Epivir. Studies have shown it is one of the most effective treatments against Aids when used with AZT, another Glaxo Wellcome drug. Analysts believe that, given the pressure to improve Aids treatments, the committee will recommend its approval to the full FDA. It is rare for the agency to overrule the committee and if Epivir is given the green light, a positive decision could be reached before the end of the year.

However, forecasters are divided about the potential for new anti-Aids drugs. Epivir is being reviewed alongside other anti-Aids treatments. Hoffman-La Roche's Invirase and Zerit developed by Bristol-

Lloyd Webber eyes £300m Express titles

DAVID HELLIER

Sir Andrew Lloyd Webber, the founder of the theatrical and music copyright company, the Really Useful Group, confirmed yesterday that he was interested in making a bid for the Express group titles.

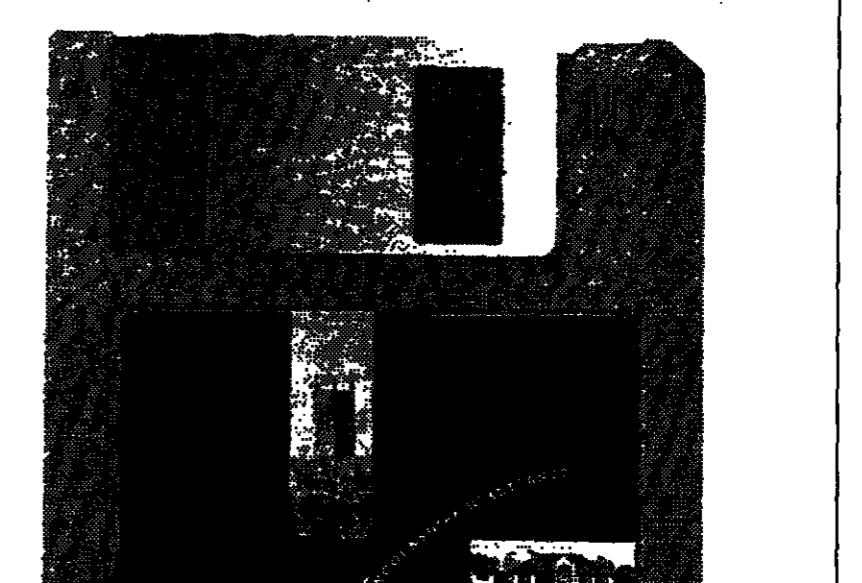
He has been interested in newspapers for a very long time and he is certainly interested in the Express group," a spokesman said. "But I cannot say who his partners are and I am not at liberty to confirm how far any talks might have gone."

Another group that has been mentioned as a possible buyer,

Tony O'Reilly's Independent Newspaper Group, which owns the *Sunday Express* and *Daily Express*, were keen to dampen speculation that a sale was being planned. City analysts

doubted that any purchaser, with the possible exception of Sir Andrew or Michael Green's Carlton Communications Group, would be prepared to pay the £300m plus needed to persuade United's Lord Stevens to let a sale go through.

The rumours of a possible sale have been fuelled by the recent appointment of the merged



You can now access the Lincolnshire Heartlands by road, rail, air, sea and P.C.

"Hard Facts on Software" contains everything you could possibly want to know about the Lincolnshire Heartlands, from current sites to workforce profiles to information on our new University, due to open in 1996.

If you want to expand or relocate your business, or your client's business to an area with a great future, you can get a free copy of this disk by calling Julie Cooper on 01522-564466. Alternatively, you can call or fax her on 01522-540066.</

THE INVESTMENT COLUMN

Edited by TOM STEVENSON

Soaring BA is still good value

Is British Airways a growth stock or a cyclical recovery play? More to the point from an investor's perspective, should the company be valued on a discount because it is currently riding high on buoyant economic growth in most markets of the world (and set for a fall); or on a premium because it is one of the likely beneficiaries of perhaps two decades of strong growth in air passenger traffic?

There is no answer of course, and the view you take on that question will determine whether you agree with the handful of City brokers recommending selling the stock, the similar number of buyers or those who haven't a clue. The range of views currently being espoused, despite broad agreement on prospective growth, makes for a healthy market even if it is guaranteed to confuse.

Interim figures yesterday from the world's favourite airline continued the good news of three months ago with second-quarter figures the best-ever 12-week result. Interim pre-tax profits of £430m (£249m) were up an impressive 23 per cent. Earnings rose by a similar proportion to 33.8p (27.3p), allowing a 10 per cent hike in the half-time dividend to 3.85p (3.5p).

For the first time since the late 1980s the balance between capacity and demand appears to be moving towards a sustainable equilibrium. The aircraft which spent the early 1990s mothballed in the desert are now carrying record numbers of passengers, with load factors (bums on seats) of almost 77 per cent, helping turnover through the £4bn mark for the first time in a six-month period and generating cash flow of more than one and half times operating profit.

Importantly, first-class and business passengers, who generate the fattest margins, are on the increase.

It is not all complimentary champagne, however, with uncertainty hanging over BA's stake in USAir and losses from the European alliances still mounting up, if at a slower rate. Robert Ayling, the bright young heir apparent, admits that the company has a long way to go before it can claim to have shaken off its old state-run, bureaucratic shackles. Selling costs and price are rising at a fair lick.

But those are small quibbles in the context of strong growth in passenger numbers, which some forecasters estimate at more than 6 per cent a year for the next 20 years. Compounded up, that represents a massive increase in the size of BA's target market, a growth that few in any relatively mature industries could dream of matching.

Pre-tax profits of perhaps £580m for

the year to March put the shares on a prospective price/earnings ratio of about 11. That is not asking a lot, and the shares, which at 465p have all but quadrupled since flotation in 1987, still look good value.

Oily strategy pays off for ABF

Food manufacturers have had a grim time of late, hit by a rise in raw material costs and the increasing power of the supermarkets, which have made price increases a forlorn hope.

This could have been the story at Associated British Foods had Gary Weston not wisely continued to reduce the group's reliance on the grocery giants.

Fifteen years ago, 60 per cent of ABF's business was with the big grocers. Now it is 20 per cent and falling.

Although ABF is still Britain's biggest baker, it has moved more into food ingredients such as edible oils and fats as well as sugar – keeping it at a safe remove from the supermarkets.

In July it paid around £100m for Kraft Foods' US edible oils interests. Last year it bought the US operations of Karlsamms, the Swedish foods group.

More deals in this sector are expected and, with a £600m cash pile, the company has plenty of firepower.

The strategy appears to be paying off, with pre-tax profits for the year to September up by 16 per cent to £375m. The figures were boosted by a 48 per cent increase in investment income and British Sugar turned in its customary solid performance, with profits up by 10 per cent to £184m.

But ABF has also turned the corner in some of its problem businesses. Almond Bakers lifted profits after five years of decline. A 3 per cent price increase in January has stuck, just as well given that packaging prices rose by 25 per cent over the year.

The power of the supermarket is nowhere better illustrated than in ABF's ice cream business. In spite of a 17 per cent increase in sales – thanks to the summer heatwave – the division didn't make a cent.

Retailing profits increased by 8 per cent to £55m. However the group's Northern Ireland supermarket chains, Stewarts and Crazy Prices, may come under pressure from Tesco and Sainsbury, which are moving into the region.

Unlike many of its peers, ABF shares have enjoyed a good run this year, rising by more than 20 per cent. Yesterday they closed 13p higher at

701p. Merrill Lynch forecasts profits of £400m for the current year, which puts them on a forward rating of 12.

Unlikely to excite but a steady performer to tuck away.

Profits blow at Hickson

No summer would be complete without a disaster at Hickson International. The plant explosions which hit the West Yorkshire chemicals group in successive years in the early 1990s were replaced last time by the loss of the contract with Unilever to supply the catalyst at the centre of the "soap wars".

A little later in the season this year, Hickson has hit the market with news of production and marketing problems – expected to wipe out second-half profits for 1995 – the departure of chief executive Dennis Kerrison and the axing of this year's final dividend.

The news was all the more disappointing after the relative confidence expressed at the interim results in August. It now looks as though the £6.1m half-year profits – themselves little more than half the 1994 figure – will equal the trading outcome for the year, with exceptional charges plumping the pre-tax figure to a loss of around £1.7m.

The group's problems clearly defeated Mr Kerrison, but it remains to be seen whether the latest moves will be radical enough to correct them. One of the central issues is the 80-year old Castleford site, which is potentially the group's biggest profit generator but is running at 60 per cent capacity after being plagued by plant failures all year. Yesterday's appointment of a full-time manager for the operation should help, but necessary investment may be constrained by current gearing of around 60 per cent.

Meanwhile, the legacy of the detergent catalyst débâcle continues. PharmaChem in Ireland is still struggling to find a replacement for the Unilever order, which represented a third of group profits. The decision to exit from some underperforming operations, kicked off by the £33.5m sale of Hickson Kerley in the US announced yesterday, should help to eliminate losses and cut the interest bill.

Profits of say £1.2m in 1996 would put the shares onto a prospective multiple in the mid-teens. That represents a premium compared with the market and Hickson's peers, but the shares are probably still just worth holding in case vague bid hopes turn into something more concrete.

Simon Pincombe CITY DIARY

Colour no bar to Ayling's black-and-white vision

Robert Ayling, the dapper British Airways chief executive, inadvertently reveals that he is superbly qualified for his role as chairman of Race for Opportunity, the Business in the Community initiative that aims to harness the potential of the UK's ethnic minority population.

He is colour blind.

Yes, it's true. Barely has he taken over from Sir Colin Marshall than the permanently suntanned Mr Ayling admits that he would have difficulty telling the difference between a BA hostess and her Virgin counterpart at two paces. Indeed, he probably doesn't even know he has a suntan, poor fellow.

The all-too-public diagnosis took place as the retinaally challenged executive took the controls for the presentation of his maiden set of interim figures. Confronted with a set of coloured bar charts he went into a minor tailspin before inviting his audience to refer "to the bigger of the two".

Given his affliction one wonders how Mr Ayling manages to maintain such a refined sense of dress. We should be told.

The London Stock Exchange committee of "extremely senior and able individuals" examining the trends in private share ownership may not boast the "wide range of relevant experience" as was originally claimed. Carr Sheppards, the brokers, are concerned that Fred Carr, their chief executive, may be out of his depth on the panel and are appealing to clients for their help.

The committee, chaired by Sir Mark Weinberg, is undertaking a wide-ranging review of the equity market and aims

Flashed with adrenalin from the announcement of his move to Abbey National as managing director of the personal financial planning division, Jeremy Budden sees the value of his leaving present sated at a stroke. Colleagues at Sedgwick Noble Lowndes, "one of the UK's largest financial services consultancies", have not taken well to the sound bite which passed for his acceptance speech.

"With 14 years at Sedgwick I felt I couldn't ignore a job offer from a leading financial services company," blurted the assistant managing director of Sedgwick Financial Services.



Colour question: Robert Ayling confronts the race issue

to identify obstacles to the growth of the private investor. This is very much the A-team, according to the LSE, which cannot stress their qualities too highly.

"In spite of this, Fred has been asked to sit on the committee," notes Carr Sheppards' client newsletter. "It would be an understatement to describe this as a complicated brief. He [Fred] would very much appreciate it if any of you with views on this issue would write and tell him about them."

Mr Carr regrets that he cannot answer individual letters but he would be grateful for some ideas to throw into the debate none the less.

The seismic upheavals in regional stockbroker belts continue unabated. Granville Davies, a London-based institutional broker, yesterday paid an undisclosed sum for a seven-man team from the

Thorntons, the upmarket chocolate people.

Mr Paffard is uninitiated in the art of the goody stuff. He is managing director of Staples UK, the office superstore joint venture between Kingfisher and Staples. Before that he ran a very nice line in bedroom furniture at Sharps.

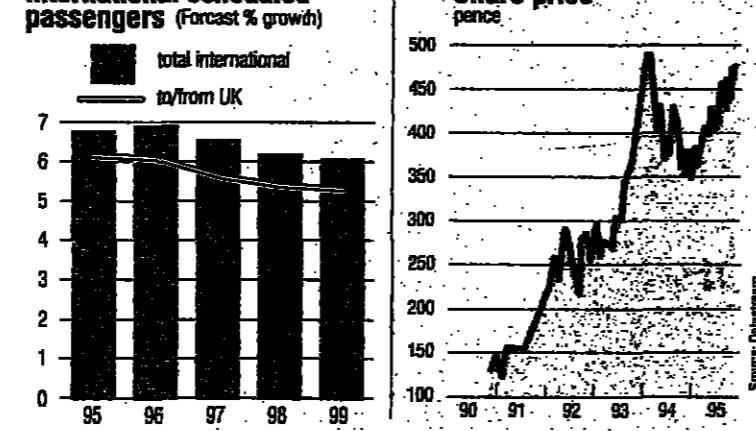
British Airways : at a glance

Market value: £4.46bn, share price 456p

Five-Year record

	1993	1994	1995	1994	1995
Turnover (£bn)	5.65	6.00	7.13	3.70	4.13
Pre-tax profit (£m)	179	280	327	349	430
Earnings per share (pence)	2.25	3.69	2.22	3.21	3.85
Dividends per share (pence)	10.16	11.10	12.40	3.50	3.85

International scheduled passengers (Forecast % growth)



Canny investment has given us an edge in the global economy



ECONOMIC VIEW

HAMISH McRAE

you have a catastrophic investment. It is not to denigrate the valuable investment which Japanese companies have made in overseas plants to say that, in general, Japan's surpluses have not been well handled.

The UK is the other extreme. As the graph demonstrates, we managed to build up substantial surpluses during the early 1980s, when, thanks to oil revenues, we ran sizeable current account surpluses. Then we blew it all in the grand spurge of the late 1980s boom. Now,

their plants here. Last year we received £22bn and paid out only £9.5bn.

That is the explanation. Now for the conclusion. Think back about the ways in which countries thought of their competitive advantage 20 years ago. We would have talked in terms of our ability to make the most of our various export industries, and how we might counter the competition from overseas in our less successful ventures, such as motorcycle manufacture. If we were daringly mod-

ern, we might have included service industries such as finance and tourism in our tally.

But thinking of the world in national terms seems less and less relevant. Nowadays manufacturing technology crosses national boundaries in a matter of weeks, large companies have plants in every major market, multinationals own brand-named businesses that have nothing to do with the notional nationality parent, and the shares are owned by people in other countries. Surely in those sorts of immensely international worlds running a successful economy is much more akin to running a portfolio than

it is to managing a factory.

This is particularly relevant to the UK. We run a very open economy in that we have very little resistance to foreign ownership of our national brands.

As a result of this open attitude, the stream of high-profile takeover bids for British assets, and the rash of Japanese plants established here, we tend to think of ourselves as being the recipients, even the victims, of this great swirl towards a more international economy.

If you look at the figures, we have managed to play our weak hand of cards sufficiently well to rebuild a modest stock of net assets.

their overseas investments are bringing in a solid running surplus each year.

It would be silly to push this argument too far. The world economy may be becoming more international, but national performance will still matter.

Running a national economy successfully needs more than clever portfolio management skills. But there are, I think, two important messages in the figures.

The first is that the willingness

of a country to save will become a more and more important contributor to national performance, for as a result of its inadequate savings even a country with the many human and technical assets of the US has plunged into debt.

The second is that an increasingly international economy gives great advantage to countries with a strong and internationally oriented financial sector.

You have to earn a living in the first place, but once you have built up some wealth, you can gain great advantage from managing that wealth in a sensible way.

It is not to be sniffed at.

S7Y101520

market report/shares

DATA BANK

FTSE 100	5,514.3	+14.4
FTSE 250	3,887.7	+14.0
FTSE 350	1,749.7	+7.0
SEAO VOLUME	657.8m shares	29,917 bargains
ENTS Index	94.08	+0.24

SHARE SPOTLIGHT

Last price, pence

British Gas	919
BP	1,020
Imperial Chemical Industries	1,010
Marconi	1,000
Standard Chartered	990

Source: Datastream

Assault on Seaboard sends electricity prices sizzling

TAKING STOCK

Electricity shares were cracking again as another US group descended on the industry with what appeared to be a knockout bid.

Seaboard, the willing victim of a £1.6bn offer from Central & South West, surged 97p to 628p, a few coppers below the bid level. The US assault sent the shares of the remaining regional electricity companies romping ahead.

The survivors from the 1990 privatisation are clearly doomed to disappear, it's just a question of price.

East Midland rose 24p to 919p; London 17p to 923p; South Wales 34p to 960p and Yorkshire 31p to 929p.

Northern, which received the first assault when Trafalgar House launched its controversial and unsuccessful offer, has already handed back much of its riches to shareholders. Now heavily geared it nevertheless jumped 37p to 915p.

And Northern Ireland Electricity, outside the main circuit, edged forward 3p to 445p.

The electrical excitement helped the market to achieve modest headway in thin trading. The FT-SE 100 index ended 14.4 points higher at 3,514.8. The Americans swooped into the market, picking up 23.93 per cent of Seaboard. Turnover in the shares reached a staggering 114.32 million; total market volume was 657.8 million.

But British Gas drew little warmth from the advance. It fell 4.5p to 228.5p, lowest for five years.

The doubts expressed by the industry regulator Clare Spottiswoode over the group's future had already undermined the shares and reports British Petroleum could barge into its domestic market added fuel to the growing doubts about what once seemed to be an impregnable giant.

MARKET REPORT

DEREK PAIN

Stock market reporter of the year

Waters were weak as Whitehall's apparent dithering over the French bid for Northumbrian ruffled sentiment. A statement, in effect, clearing the way for the bid has been expected for some weeks. But the lack of any decision is raising doubts whether the French will be offered sufficiently encouraging terms to make an offer.

Glaxo Wellcome, meeting analysts tomorrow, recovered from Friday's fiasco when it was said to be facing a £1.5bn tax bill. The shares recovered 26p to 871p. Hopes that the US Food and Drug Administration will clear the group's Epirin HTV treatment also helped

the shares. Zeneca climbed 26p to 1,205p, just a whisker from its peak.

Allied Domecq's year's figures today, endorsed an uncertain session, at one time falling 6.5p. The shares closed at 493p, off 1.5p.

Cazenove was said to be cautious about the results and Lehman Brothers had the shares on its sell list.

Guinness' little changed at 509p; NatWest Securities worries about BT's dividend growth pulled the shares 4p lower to 366p.

Rolls-Royce seems at last to have got its (bullish) message through to at least some institutions.

The shares, under pressure recently, turned in the best blue-chip display, gaining 5.5p to 156p.

To combat gloomy predictions in some quarters Rolls has undertaken a series of investment presentations. Merrill Lynch moved its recommendation from hold to buy, upgrading its 1996 profit forecast to £235m from £205m.

The day's newcomers fared well. Enterprise Inns moved to 149.5p from a 145p placing; Heritage Bathrooms closed at 151p against a 125p placing.

Aminex, the oil group with interests in the former Soviet Union, dipped 3p to 52p. A party of stockbrokers is due to visit its oil operations this week. Cluff Resources continued to gain on its bid approach, reaching 90p, up 8p. A US mining giant, Echo Bay, is regarded as the most likely predator.

Insurances were weak, with Credit Lyonnais' Laing seemingly responsible for much of the damage. The securities house turned negative on the sector. With worries about competition from the Halifax building society-cum-bank and Merrill Lynch putting Sun Alliance on its sell list recent strength melted away with Royal Insurance off 7p at 381p and Sun Alliance 11p at 366p.

The Halifax muscle-flexing added to the weakness of Royal Bank of Scotland, owner of Direct Line insurance, off 4p at 507p. Hickson International, the chemical group, fell 12p to 87p on a profits warning.

Cordiant, the advertising group, made further headway with its cash call, gaining 6p to 98p. Sage, the computer group, rose 8p to 270p.

Celsis International, one of the biotech babes, firmed to 128p as Yamaichi repeated its support.

Environment, the struggling health-care group where a proposed management buyout and other bids failed to materialise, firmed to 20p as what could be one of the potential predators said to be still hovering declared a 9.1 per cent stake.

EN PLC Limited Partnership features a former Enviromed director, Ron Zwanziger, on its notepaper. The health-care group has had a disastrous time since it arrived on the stock market at 110p two years ago. In the first half of its last year it lost almost £5m.

Bluebird, the toy group where Hasbro, the US giant, is said to be staking-building gained 17p to 376p. There is talk that Bluebird wants to strengthen its selling side and is in talks to take over a marketing business.

BANKS, MERCHANT

Barclays	1,000.0	0.0
Chase Manhattan	1,000.0	0.0
Commerzbank	1,000.0	0.0
Deutsche Bank	1,000.0	0.0
HSBC	1,000.0	0.0

BANKS, RETAIL

Barclays	1,000.0	0.0
Chase Manhattan	1,000.0	0.0
Deutsche Bank	1,000.0	0.0
HSBC	1,000.0	0.0
Midland	1,000.0	0.0

BREWERS

Adnams	1,000.0	0.0
Brasier	1,000.0	0.0
Carling	1,000.0	0.0
Heublein	1,000.0	0.0
Heublein	1,000.0	0.0

BUILDING/CONSTRUCTION

Amec	1,000.0	0.0
Arup	1,000.0	0.0
Barclays	1,000.0	0.0
Barclays	1,000.0	0.0
Barclays	1,000.0	0.0

ELECTRICITY

British Gas	1,000.0	0.0
BP	1,000.0	0.0
Imperial Chemical Industries	1,000.0	0.0
Marconi	1,000.0	0.0
Standard Chartered	1,000.0	0.0

BUILDING MATERIALS

Amico	1,000.0	0.0

CHEMICALS

Amoco	1,000.0	0.0

DISTRIBUTORS

ABF	1,000.0	0.0

ENGINEERING

Amec	1,000.0	0.0

FOOD MANUFACTURERS

Amico	1,000.0	0.0

sport

Cowley saves the day for Sheffield

ice hockey

STEVE PINDER

Sheffield Steelers will contest the Benson and Hedges Cup final next month against Nottingham Panthers on home ice, but with the knowledge that passionate Panthers fans, who also see the fixture as a local derby and have seen their side win in the 'House of Steel' before, will match any noise the home supporters can offer.

Sheffield had the hardest road to the final, trailing Fife Flyers 5-3 after the first leg of the semi-final. Icing their new import, the net mender Wayne Cowley, in a baptism of fire, they pulled back one goal through Tommy Plummer. But Alistair Reid and Frank Morris put Fife three in front on aggregate halfway through the match.

Steelers pulled one back again, only for Iain Robertson to restore Flyers' cushion. But as Fife tired the 7,000-strong crowd got behind their team. With five minutes to go, Ron Shudra's goal made it all square at 8-8 on aggregate.

Cowley earned his keep, saving from Robertson with seconds left, and the match went into sudden death overtime. It took five minutes of end-to-end hockey before Tony Hand scored for a 9-8 Steelers win.

Nottingham had the easier passage, with a 9-3 lead from the first leg, but Humberside kept the second leg respectable. They held Panthers 1-1 in the first period before losing the second and third periods 3-2 to make the score 7-5 on the night and 16-8 on aggregate.

BENSON AND HEDGES CUP SEMI-FINALS second leg: Saturday: Sheffield 6 Fife 3 (Shudra 3, 8-8 on aggregate). Sunday: Nottingham 16-8 (Hand 9, 7-5 on aggregate). Monday: Nottingham 16-8 on aggregate.

BRITISH LEAGUE Premier Division: Saturday: Basingstoke 2, Humberside 6; Milton Keynes 4, Nottingham 1; Northampton 13, Luton 1; Shrewsbury 10, Shetland; Basingstoke 5, Slough 1; Cardiff 5, Sheffield 4; Newcastle 2; Durham 9. First Division: Ballymena 2, Monaghan 3; Gloucester 10, Luton 1; Belfast 2; Monaghan 3; Guildford 10; Peterborough 1; Middlesbrough 4; Chelmsford 3; Solihull 4; Dumbries 1; Swindon 6; Paisley 7; Telford 6; Blackpool 1; Wigan 2; Nottingham 9; Merton 1; Peterborough 4; Dagenham 2; Middlesbrough 1; Hartlepool 2; Macclesfield 1; Manchester 15; Solihull 2; Macclesfield 1; Merton 1; Telford 6; Peterborough 4; Paisley 9.

Hawks swoop on top spot

Hockey

BILL COLWILL

Oxford Hawks moved one point clear at the top of the Nastro Azzurro South Premier following their 4-1 win against Fareham during the weekend's programme. Thanks to a couple of goals from Tony Silman and one each from Chris Armitage and Simon Mott, Hawks were always in command, although Tim Taverne scored a consolation goal for Fareham.

Gore Court, who had led the way, were held to a goalless draw by newly promoted Beckenham. Second-placed Lewes could do no better than draw with last year's champions, High Wycombe, who have been going through a difficult patch, losing several key players when they did not win through to the National League in the play-offs.

Lewes were well in control, following a 15th-minute goal from Colin Edwards, until the Wycombe captain, Paul Brown, slammed home a 53rd-minute penalty corner.

Ipswich have opened up a five point lead in the Adams East Premier after their 4-1 win against Redbridge and Ilford, with the prolific goalscorer Andy Cook getting another brace. Richard Blackford and Andy Beresford completed the scoring. Shrewsbury United levelled the scores prior to the interval before Ipswich raced away. Cambridge City, 4-2 winners at Bedford, are in second place.

With leaders Weston-super-Mare going down 6-1 at the hands of visiting Robinsons, Bath Buccaneers' 2-0 victory at home to Exeter University put them back in the No 1 spot in the SunLife West of England and South Wales Premier.

In the Midlands, Nottingham scraped a 2-1 win against Loughborough Students to stay top, while in the North, Ben Rhydding kept themselves three points clear of Formby, following their 2-1 win at Harrogate.

Murphy lets the curtain fall

A leading jockey hands in his saddle to start a new career. Greg Wood reports

Intelligence has always been one of Declan Murphy's defining characteristics, and it was displayed again yesterday when the jockey, having decided that he had 'nothing left to prove', announced his retirement from the saddle to join the nascent satellite Racing Channel. Jibberen, Murphy's winning ride at Chepstow last month on his return from a near-fatal injury, will now also enter the record books as the last of his career.

Murphy said yesterday that his victory on Jibberen, 18 months after a fall at Haydock left him with severe head injuries and clinging to life on a ventilator, was 'such a high that I thought it wouldn't matter what I did afterwards, I gave up racing.'

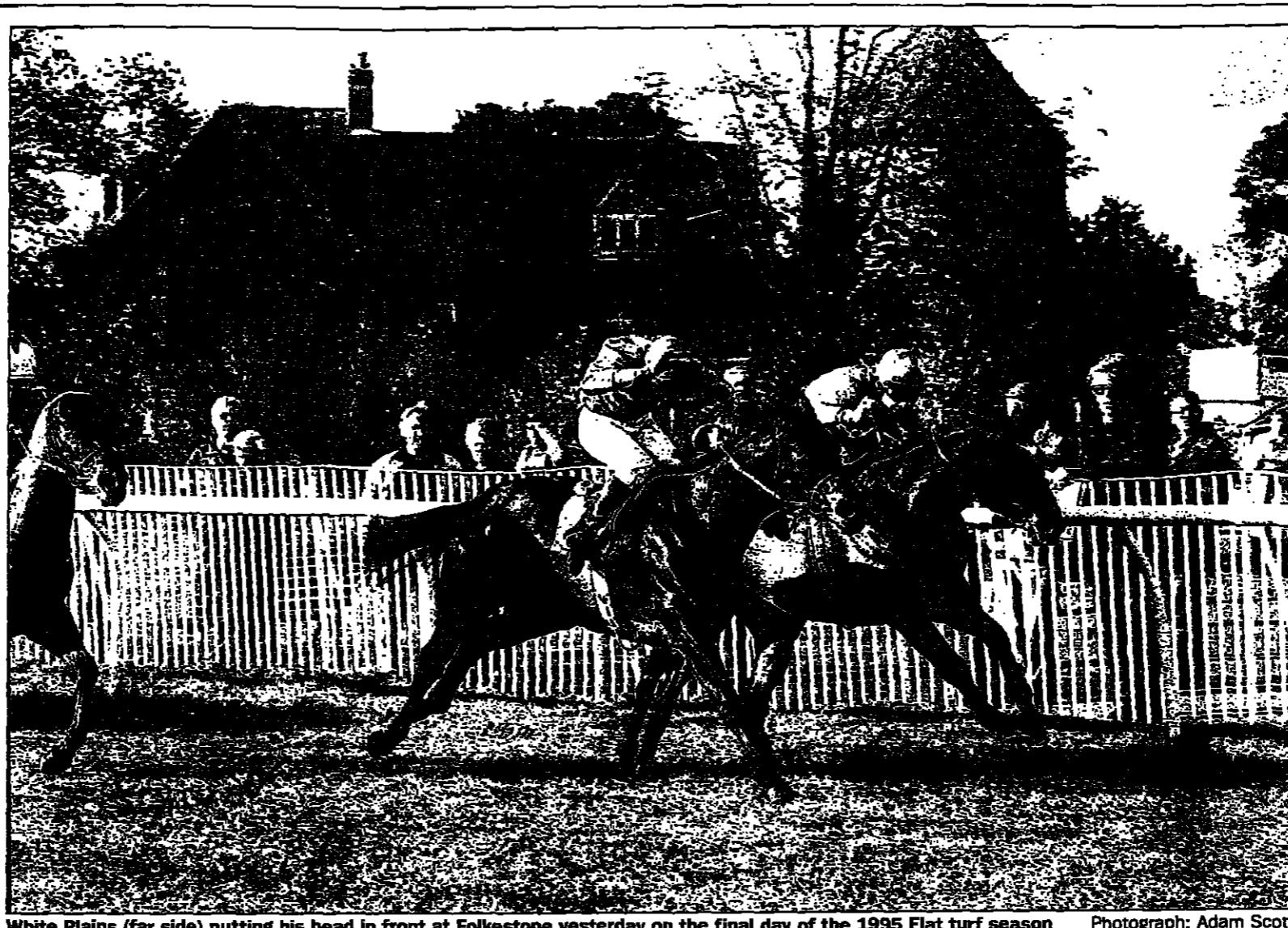
RICHARD EDMONDSON
NAP: Rich Desire
(Sedgefield 4.00)
NB: Super Sharp
(Ludlow 2.45)

riding for two weeks afterwards to see if I would miss it and I didn't miss it at all. I would never have allowed race-riding to be taken away from me by my accident, but having come back and found I was riding as well as ever, I have nothing left to prove to anyone.'

Declan Murphy was a confident jockey, both in and out of the saddle, from an early age, as he honed his riding skills on Ireland's competitive pony-racing circuit. His first winner under Rules was Prom at Tralee on 21 June 1983, but he first came to prominence in Britain in the late Eighties through his association with the trainer and gambler Barney Curley – a considerable testament to his ability since the razor-sharp Curley would not entrust his punting cash to anyone he did not rate very highly.

Curley, however, could not provide Murphy with the high-class partners he deserved, and the jockey took up a position as Josh Gifford's stable jockey. In 1993 the association brought him his most important success, on Deep Sensation in the Queen Mother Champion Chase at the Cheltenham Festival, and also his most memorable, when he partnered Bradbury Star to victory in the Masters Gold Cup, though exhausted to the point of collapse following an earlier fall. At the

beginning of the year, he was



White Plains (far side) putting his head in front at Folkestone yesterday on the final day of the 1995 Flat turf season. Photograph: Adam Scott

Henry and El Volador enliven the finish to the Flat

The Flat turf season came to a close at Folkestone yesterday but eight-year-old El Volador seized the occasion to emphasise he is sprightly enough to be back for the 1996 campaign by recording his 12th victory for the Bognor trainer Roland O'Sullivan.

Matt Henry, the gelding's apprentice rider, darted the 4-1 chance to the front approaching two furlongs out to beat Nothing Doing by a length and a quarter in the Foil Handicap Stakes.

The trainer said: 'He has won

10 on the Flat, the majority of

those on the all-weather, and

two over hurdles. We gave him

a year off in 1994 when he jarred his shoulders, but he has been a good old servant.'

The Stockbridge trainer Ken Cunningham-Brown passed the £100,000 prize money total for the first time in a season when Village Native made all the running to take the second part of the Broadsword Auction Maiden Stakes under Darren Biggs.

After the French-bred colt

had beaten Bearnaise, the 13-8 favourite, by a length and a quarter. Cunningham-Brown said the two-year-old would be going back to his native country later this month for a race yet to be decided upon.

The Hampshire handler has had a fine season, highlighted by Bold Effort's win in the £300,000 William Hill Handicap at York in June.

But Cunningham-Brown's

concentration inevitably now turns to jumping and in particular to novice steeplechaser, Dancing Paddy, who recorded excellent wins at Ascot and Ayr last season to confirm earlier promise.

Dancing Paddy is due to make his first appearance of the new season on the First National Bank Gold Cup Chase at Ascot on Saturday week," the trainer said.

But Cunningham-Brown's

Coulton has top weight

Fifteen horses stood their ground at yesterday's acceptance stage for Saturday's Mackeson Gold Cup. Coulton has top weight of 12 stone for the event and is 7-2 favourite in Coral's ante-post book.

Matt Henry will ride Oliver

Sherwood's chaser in the two-mile five-furlong event.

'Coulton is in A1 condition,'

said the spokeswoman.

The fine details of Murphy's comeback ride on Jibberen were controversially put under scrutiny by the Jockey Club, but the rider denied the official interest had in any way prompted his decision. 'That had absolutely nothing to do with it,' he said. 'It was right for racing that they looked into the matter.'

The Jockey Club investigated

the betting patterns before

the Chepstow race, amid allegations of skullduggery con-

cerning not only the tactics

employed by other jockeys dur-

ing the race but also the ballot

of the jockeys' mounts before-

hand. It transpired that Murphy had partnered Jibberen in work a couple of days previously. Yesterday, however, a Jockey Club statement said that investigations had found no breach of any regulations and that no inquiry is to be held.

Henry, the gelding's

apprentice rider, darted the

five-furlong event.

'Coulton is in A1 condition,'

said the spokeswoman.

Coulton has top weight of

12 stone for the event and is

7-2 favourite in Coral's ante-post book.

Matt Henry will ride Oliver

Sherwood's chaser in the two-

mile five-furlong event.

'Coulton is in A1 condition,'

said the spokeswoman.

The fine details of Murphy's

comeback ride on Jibberen were

controversially put under scrutiny by the Jockey Club, but the rider denied the official interest had in any way prompted his decision. 'That had absolutely nothing to do with it,' he said. 'It was right for racing that they looked into the matter.'

The Jockey Club investigated

the betting patterns before

the Chepstow race, amid allegations of skullduggery con-

cerning not only the tactics

employed by other jockeys dur-

ing the race but also the ballot

of the jockeys' mounts before-

hand. It transpired that Murphy had partnered Jibberen in work a couple of days previously. Yesterday, however, a Jockey Club statement said that investigations had found no breach of any regulations and that no inquiry is to be held.

Henry, the gelding's

apprentice rider, darted the

five-furlong event.

'Coulton is in A1 condition,'

said the spokeswoman.

Coulton has top weight of

12 stone for the event and is

7-2 favourite in Coral's ante-post book.

Matt Henry will ride Oliver

Sherwood's chaser in the two-

mile five-furlong event.

'Coulton is in A1 condition,'

said the spokeswoman.

The fine details of Murphy's

comeback ride on Jibberen were

controversially put under scrutiny by the Jockey Club, but the rider denied the official interest had in any way prompted his decision. 'That had absolutely nothing to do with it,' he said. 'It was right for racing that they looked into the matter.'

The Jockey Club investigated

the betting patterns before

the Chepstow race, amid allegations of skullduggery con-

cerning not only the tactics

employed by other jockeys dur-

ing the race but also the ballot

of the jockeys' mounts before-

hand. It transpired that Murphy had partnered Jibberen in work a couple of days previously. Yesterday, however, a Jockey Club statement said that investigations had found no breach of any regulations and that no inquiry is to be held.

Henry, the gelding's

apprentice rider, darted the

five-furlong event.

'Coulton is in A1 condition,'

said the spokeswoman.

The fine details of Murphy's

comeback ride on Jibberen were

controversially put under scrutiny by the Jockey Club, but the rider denied the official interest had in any way prompted his decision. 'That had absolutely nothing to do with it,' he said. 'It was right for racing that they looked into the matter.'

The Jockey Club investigated

the betting patterns before

the Chepstow race, amid allegations of skullduggery con-

cerning not only the tactics

employed by other jockeys dur-

ing the race but also the ballot

of the jockeys' mounts before-

hand. It transpired that Murphy had partnered Jibberen in work a couple of days previously. Yesterday, however, a Jockey Club statement said that investigations had found no breach of any regulations and that no inquiry is to be held.

Henry, the gelding's

apprentice rider, darted the

five-furlong event.

'Coulton is in A1 condition,'

said the spokeswoman.

The fine details of Murphy's

comeback ride on Jibberen were

controversially put under scrutiny by the Jockey Club, but the rider denied the official interest had in any way prompted his decision. 'That had absolutely nothing to do with it,' he said. 'It was right for racing that they looked into the matter.'

The Jockey Club investigated

the betting patterns before

Nobilo's birdie barrage earns his first US victory

Golf

Frank Nobilo, of New Zealand, grabbed a dramatic one-stroke victory to rob the Spaniard Miguel Angel Jimenez in the Sanazza World Open in Braselton, Georgia, on Sunday night.

Nobilo, three strokes behind with five holes to play, charged into the lead with three consecutive birdies starting at the 14th hole.

Even a bogey at the final hole, where he took three putts, did not matter in the end as the European Tour stalwart held on to record his first victory on American soil.

"It's lovely to win in America. I was just thinking the other night that I've won everywhere except Japan and America," Nobilo said after a closing four-under-par 68.

The New Zealander finished with an eight-under 208 in the

rain-shortened event, while the second-round leader Jimenez (73) and Zimbabwe's Mark McNulty (67) tied for second on 209.

Nobilo collected £235,000, the biggest payday of his career, for his second victory of the year. He won the European Tour's BMW International Open in Munich in July. "This is almost what I won in Europe the entire year," said Nobilo, 35, who has been struggling recently while working on a swing change.

His victory completed a great weekend for New Zealand golf, coming only hours after his compatriot Michael Campbell won the Alfred Dunhill Masters in Indonesia. Nobilo and Campbell will team up to represent New Zealand in the World Cup of golf in Shenzhen, China, starting on Thursday.

Jimenez fell behind with bogeys at the 15th, where he three-putted, and the 17th, where he made a mess of a chip, and

missed a 20-foot birdie chance at the final hole which would have put him into a play-off.

Sam Torrance, of Scotland, who was alongside Nobilo overnight at four strokes off the lead, could only manage a final-round 74 to finish on 214, the same total as Paul Curran, of England, who finished with a 70.

Nobilo's presence in Shenzhen will be a boost for the first major professional tournament in China, which yesterday lost Ian Woosnam. He withdrew after reportedly telling his Welsh team-mate, Mark Mouland: "You're better off without me."

Rather than flying on from Indonesia, where he shot a closing 77 in the Alfred Dunhill Masters, the former world No 1 asked to be booked on the next available plane back to Britain where he will see a specialist after a recurrence of the humid conditions which made coping with his injury more difficult. On the final day

he slumped 17 shots behind the winner.

Barry Lane shot a third successive 69 but had to settle for joint second place at the Kapahua International tournament in Hawaii. The 35-year-old Middlesex player was tied with the Americans Russ Cochran and Jim McGovern on a 17-under-par total of 273 - two strokes behind Jim Furyk, who finished with a 70 for a tournament record total.

'Animal' caught out by broken toe

Football

The woes of the Flamengo striker Edmundo, who was accused last week of making an obscene gesture to rival fans during a game, continued when he broke his toe in his side's game against Internaciona.

The player nicknamed "the Animal" was taken off just before half-time on Sunday after

being injured in a clash with the Paraguayan defender, Carlos Gamarras, who had marked him out of the game. He is expected to be out of action for six weeks.

The Brazilian Championship match ended goalless, leaving Flamengo with only a slim chance of winning Group A in the competition's second stage, in which teams from the different groups meet, and earning a semi-final place.

Edmundo has failed to settle

since joining the club from Palmeiras in May, and last week a newspaper published a picture in which it was claimed he was making an obscene gesture at fans during a derby with Vasco da Gama. Edmundo, left out of the Brazilian squad for tomorrow's friendly in Argentina, said later he had been stretching.

Alain Giresse, the former

French international midfielder, has taken over as trainer of Second Division Toulouse. Giresse, 43, is the last of France's mid-field quartet of the 1980s to take up coaching. Michel Platini trained the French national team before taking a post as co-president of France's 1998 World Cup organising committee, while Jean Tigana and Luis Fernandez are coaches of Monaco and Paris St-Germain respectively.

Giresse, who previously had an administrative role at Toulon, as sporting director, replaces Roland Courbis, who resigned on Saturday.

Uefa have put Antonio Lopez Nieto, the Spanish referee involved in the alleged bribery attempt which saw Dynamo Kiev kicked out of the Champions' Cup, in charge of the Uefa Cup third round, second leg match between Sparta Prague and Milan on 5 December.

Lopez Nieto alleged Kiev officials tried to bribe him before their 1-0 Champions' League victory over Panathinaikos in September. The Ukrainian club denied the allegation, but Uefa annulled the game, expelled Kiev from the competition, and barred two Kiev officials for life from all Uefa-related activities.

Scotland's door still open for Ferguson

PHIL SHAW

Although he languishes in prison, Scotland have not locked the door on Duncan Ferguson. After naming his squad for the final European Championship qualifying fixture against San Marino yesterday, Craig Brown stressed that the birdman of Barlinnie was still in his thoughts.

The pigeon-fancying Everton forward, jailed for head-butting an opponent, has not played for Scotland this year. But by suggesting there was still hope for him, and intimating that Eoin Jess would partner Scott Booth against Group Eight's bottom-placed team at Hampden Park a week tomorrow, Brown effectively conceded that he is no closer to a settled attacking duo.

The Scotland manager started the campaign with Duncan Shearer and Andy Walker as his front two. Since then, he has tried permutations involving Ferguson, John McGinlay, Darren Jackson, John Robertson, Ally McCoist, John Spencer and Booth, without being satisfied by the chemistry.

Only Booth, the Premier Division's top scorer with eight goals, has done enough to be a certainty for the finals if, as anticipated, the Scots' place is confirmed against San Marino's part-timers and amateurs. It is

not unusual for the boys from the Bay Area to drop the odd game in the season's opening chapters, but Sunday's defeat was their fourth, and their second in a row at home to a team they would normally thrash. A week ago they could manage only seven points against New Orleans, and they had to make do with the same meagre result in losing to an expansion club, the Carolina Panthers.

The Panthers took advantage of 54 49ers turnovers, one of which, an interception by Tim McKey, was run back 96 yards

months in the NFL. It is not unusual for the boys from the Bay Area to drop the odd game in the season's opening chapters, but Sunday's defeat was their fourth, and their second in a row at home to a team they would normally thrash. A week ago they could manage only seven points against New Orleans, and they had to make do with the same meagre result in losing to an expansion club, the Carolina Panthers.

The 49ers have been hit by injuries with Young, William Floyd and Brent Jones all missing, but enforced absences are the name of the game and George Seifert, the 49ers' normally placid head coach, was entitled to his furious response to this latest reverse: "I'm really annoyed at our guys. People have to step up," he said.

The Panthers took advantage of 54 49ers turnovers, one of which, an interception by Tim McKey, was run back 96 yards

for a touchdown. A brace of John Kasay field goals completed their scoring before half-time.

Not that defeat by the Panthers is any disgrace these days. It was their fourth win in a row.

The 49ers hope to have Young back for Sunday's visit to the Dallas Cowboys, a contest originally billed as the game of the regular season but currently boasting all the competitive allure of a bullfight. In a confusing season, just about the only team to conform to type has been the awesome Cowboys (well, all right, the jets are predictably awful) and if the 49ers cannot beat the Panthers and Saints it is hard to see them getting within 14 points of their old rivals.

The 49ers' claim to be the second-best team in the league probably belongs to the Kansas City Chiefs, whose eighth victory of the season came at the expense of Washington. The Chiefs lead a highly competitive AFC West

in which the Oakland Raiders are also thriving.

For fans of the Cleveland Browns, depression at their latest defeat (to Houston) paled into insignificance once the news broke that Dennis Byrd kind of

thing. The moans, and the pain those guys were in, that's all I could think of," Moon said.

White injured his knee, but Jones played on. However, at the end of the game Jones clearly disoriented and unable to respond to the repeated questioning of team officials, was taken out on a stretcher still wearing his uniform. He spent the night in hospital suffering from a suspected concussion. In all, the Packers lost five players from a brutal encounter, including their starting quarterback Brett Favre, and his back-up, Ty Detmer.

NFL home teams lost: San Francisco 7, Carolina 22; San Diego 14, Miami 24; New Orleans 13, Atlanta 20; Denver 13, St Louis 20; Cleveland 10, Houston 3; Jets 7, New England 20; Atlanta 34, Detroit 22; Kansas City 24, Washington 3; Indianapolis 19, but Cincinnati 20; Denver 26, Green Bay 24; Pittsburgh 37, (OT). Did not play: Jacksonville, Tampa Bay.

Ailing 49ers fast running out of steam

American football

MATT TENCH

Before the season started, the American paper the *Sporting News* ran a three-page feature on the San Francisco 49ers offense, the general tenor of which was that there was no stopping it, the best you could hope for was a measure of containment. Half a season later, there may be a need for an apology.

Not that the *News* was alone in regarding the attacking potential of the defending Super Bowl champions as one of the wonders of the sporting world. With Steve Young in prime, Jerry Rice still hungry and the West Coast offense tuned to perfection, a succession of 40-point victories seemed a formality.

All of which makes the demise of the 49ers, and their offense in particular, the most extraordinary aspect of a bewildering couple of

months in the NFL. It is not unusual for the boys from the Bay Area to drop the odd game in the season's opening chapters, but Sunday's defeat was their fourth, and their second in a row at home to a team they would normally thrash. A week ago they could manage only seven points against New Orleans, and they had to make do with the same meagre result in losing to an expansion club, the Carolina Panthers.

The 49ers have been hit by injuries with Young, William Floyd and Brent Jones all missing, but enforced absences are the name of the game and George Seifert, the 49ers' normally placid head coach, was entitled to his furious response to this latest reverse: "I'm really annoyed at our guys. People have to step up," he said.

The Panthers took advantage of 54 49ers turnovers, one of which, an interception by Tim McKey, was run back 96 yards

for a touchdown. A brace of John Kasay field goals completed their scoring before half-time. Not that defeat by the Panthers is any disgrace these days. It was their fourth win in a row.

The 49ers hope to have Young back for Sunday's visit to the Dallas Cowboys, a contest originally billed as the game of the regular season but currently boasting all the competitive allure of a bullfight. In a confusing season, just about the only team to conform to type has been the awesome Cowboys (well, all right, the jets are predictably awful) and if the 49ers cannot beat the Panthers and Saints it is hard to see them getting within 14 points of their old rivals.

The 49ers' claim to be the second-best team in the league probably belongs to the Kansas City Chiefs, whose eighth victory of the season came at the expense of Washington. The Chiefs lead a highly competitive AFC West

in which the Oakland Raiders are also thriving.

For fans of the Cleveland Browns, depression at their latest defeat (to Houston) paled into insignificance once the news broke that Dennis Byrd kind of

thing. The moans, and the pain those guys were in, that's all I could think of," Moon said.

White injured his knee, but Jones played on. However, at the end of the game Jones clearly disoriented and unable to respond to the repeated questioning of team officials, was taken out on a stretcher still wearing his uniform. He spent the night in hospital suffering from a suspected concussion. In all, the Packers lost five players from a brutal encounter, including their starting quarterback Brett Favre, and his back-up, Ty Detmer.

NFL home teams lost: San Francisco 7, Carolina 22; San Diego 14, Miami 24; New Orleans 13, Atlanta 20; Denver 13, St Louis 20; Cleveland 10, Houston 3; Jets 7, New England 20; Atlanta 34, Detroit 22; Kansas City 24, Washington 3; Indianapolis 19, but Cincinnati 20; Denver 26, Green Bay 24; Pittsburgh 37, (OT). Did not play: Jacksonville, Tampa Bay.

Sydney harbour too small for Olympics

Sailing

STUART ALEXANDER

A shadow will be cast this week over what was meant to be the sparkling high point of Olympic yachting, the 2000 Games in Sydney. The famous harbour setting was expected to give the sport the sort of glittering backdrop that would attract major television coverage, something which sailing needs to provide if it is to continue to enjoy Olympic status.

A report to the sport's governing body, the International Yacht Racing Union, at its annual meeting in Hamburg this week will say that there is just not enough room to lay out the required number and size of

courses to handle the 10 disciplines which have medal status. Sydney was meant to be a dream location for sailing, but unforeseen problems have emerged.

Back from further fact-finding in Sydney are Britain's Mike Jackson, one of the original delegates to assess Sydney's suitability, and the chairman of the IYRU's Olympic working group, Tomasz Hock. They have found that there is not enough space, so some of the classes will have to race outside the harbour.

"Courses inside the harbour cannot conform with current Olympic courses," Hock said. "It is essential that the overall format of the event is confirmed this November to enable venue preparations to commence."

To soften the blow, they will confirm that there is enough room for some of the events, including the more spectacular contests which may feature a new style of high performance sports boat - the British Laser 5000 is a leading contender against Sydney's home grown 18-foot skiffs. But that could threaten the confined appearance of either the two-handed Star keelboat or the Finn men's single-hander.

And there will be a challenge when the individual classes of boat are chosen in London next year from the colourful 16-foot Hobie Cat to the present multi-hull, the Tornado catamaran. Supporters of the Hobie Cat, which holds its world championship at the end of February in Dubai, the lively choice of the

IYRU in 1998 for the second World Sailing Championships, will argue that their boat meets more excitingly the requirements of good television.

As the IYRU receives about 45 per cent, and rising, of its funding from the dividend it receives from the Olympic Games, it is important to safeguard that. In 1996 it will receive about four times the amount that it did from Korea in 1988, a phenomenal growth rate.

Rod Carr, the British Olympic coach, says that the delegations, from more than 100 countries, will have to realise that, if they want all the racing in Sydney Harbour, it could not follow the format as it now exists. But he is more relaxed about a presentation expected from the Atlanta games

organisers about the sailing venue in Savannah.

After much lobbying, assurances will be given that a huge day marina, at a cost of up to \$1m (£633,000), will be provided, instead of using Williamson Island, which all but disappeared during hurricane-induced high tides earlier this year. A fleet of barges will allow competitors to pull their boats out of the water as well as giving shelter and other facilities.

Behind the scenes, the major power struggle will be over who the IYRU is to bring to the London-based Offshore Racing Council under greater control, combining that with moves to introduce yet another handicapping rule to challenge the relatively new International Measurement System.

Simon Parke, the England first string, was "a bit relieved" to have survived a first-round tie with Dan Jeanson, a 19-year-old qualifier from Australia, in the World Championship in Nicosia, Cyprus, yesterday.

"It was a nervy performance," Parke said, after winning 15-6 11-15 11-15 13-13. "Dan is such a quick, inventive player."

Jansher Khan, the defending champion, went through 3-1 against John Ransome of Essex. Ransome was content to have taken a game from Jansher, which won him free drinks all night following a wager with fellow players.

"An association would place the athlete firmly at the centre of the decision-making process," Black said. "We have to get away from this us and them situation. It is crucial to the well-being of the sport. A lot of the problems can be sorted out if people are prepared to sit round the table and communicate."

The move was welcomed by the British Athletic Federation, which has been at odds for months with many of the athletes. "This heralds a new era," Peter Radford, the BAF executive chairman, said. "There has been a need for such a group for some time."

As a sign of goodwill, the BAF postponed tomorrow's announcement of selection policy for next year's Olympics to allow for consultation with athletes.

Early nerves are overcome by Parke

Squash

Simon Parke, the England first string, was "a bit relieved" to have survived a first-round tie with Dan Jeanson, a 19-year-old qualifier from Australia, in the World Championship in Nicosia, Cyprus, yesterday.

After much lobbying, assurances will be given that a huge day marina, at a cost of up to \$1m (£633,000), will be provided, instead of using Williamson Island, which all but disappeared during hurricane-induced high tides earlier this year. A fleet of barges will allow competitors to pull their boats out of the water as well as giving shelter and other facilities.

"It was a nervy performance," Parke said, after winning 15-6 11-15 11-15 13-13. "Dan is such a quick, inventive player."

Jansher Khan, the defending champion, went through 3-1 against John Ransome of Essex. Ransome was content to have taken a game from Jansher, which won him free drinks all night following a wager with fellow players.

"An association would place the athlete firmly at the centre of the decision-making process," Black said. "We have to get away from this us and them situation. It is crucial to the well-being of the sport. A lot of the problems can be sorted out if people are prepared to sit round the table and communicate."

The move was welcomed by the British Athletic Federation, which has been at odds for months with many of the athletes. "This heralds a new era," Peter Radford, the BAF executive chairman, said. "There has been a need for such a group for some time."

As a sign of goodwill, the BAF postponed tomorrow's announcement of selection policy for next year's Olympics to allow for consultation with athletes.

Plans for peace on the track proposed

Athletics

Following a season marred by team selection and pay disputes, British athletes are to form their own association to deal directly with the sport's administrators.

Linford Christie, Jonathan Edwards and Sally Gunnell are among the leading performers involved in creating a forum for "an exchange of views and a mutual beneficial increase in co-operation". The initiative is coordinated by Roger Black and Geoff Parsons. Missing from the list, however, is Colin Jackson, who has vowed to boycott any BAF events.

SPORT



'I'm still a South African. Always have been, always will be'
MIKE CATT talks about his pride in playing for England, his frustration at playing with Rob Andrew, and Jonah Lomu and those pizza ads

Page 26

Leading clubs look to the money men

Rugby Union

DAVID LLEWELLYN

The talk is cheap, the solution is costly. For all the words on the subject, professionalism boils down to one thing – money. And lots of it, according to the leading clubs in the Courage League. English First Division Rugby Limited yesterday unveiled the blueprint for the game, which was proffered to the Rugby Football Union's commission a couple of weeks ago.

The overall conclusion of EFDR chairman, Peter Wheeler, was that clubs will need at least £1m at the start of the 1996-97 season in order to undertake the changeover to a professional game. The EFDR envisaged

raising the cash by persuading the RFU to give each club £500,000 from their television monies for European and domestic competitions, with the clubs then raising the balance through sponsorship, perimeter advertising and 'collectors' cards of players – an idea borrowed from football's Premiership which raised £2m in a season.

There are other ways of course. Newcastle have Sir John Hall and now two other clubs are looking for a major investor.

Saracens held a meeting of members last night in which a vote was taken on whether the club should become a public limited company. If the verdict was yes then they were due to announce back-

THE PROPOSALS OF THE ENGLISH FIRST DIVISION CLUBS

- English First Division Rugby Ltd to be constituted
- all monies raised from TV rights and sponsorship to be shared equally among First Division clubs
- no TV contracts or sponsorship deals of any kind to be entered into by clubs to be negotiated by RFU without involvement of EFDR
- reschedule Five Nations' Championship, putting it back to end of season
- European League to follow domestic competition
- only one contract per player, between club and player
- standardised form of contract, along the lines of football/rugby league
- standardised form of payment of transfers
- compensation for club when a player is incorporated while on international duty
- current registration period will be determined by a committee of clubs
- first on list of non-EEC players per team
- regulatory body for transfers
- fixed scale of fees according to standard
- transfer deadline
- limit of transfer activity targeting top grade players

was Bath who put an advertisement in the *Financial Times* asking for a wealthy investor. They expect to know the outcome of their mail shot by Thursday.

By then, of course, the RFU commission will have published their report and the First Division clubs will discover whether any of their ideas have been adopted by Twickenham. The

man prepared to put up £2m to help launch the north London club into the professional era. And Bath are seeking approval from their membership for a similar money-raising deal. Their 4,000 members have been sent a letter asking them to allow the club to be handed over to a millionaire backer. This move reinforces the suspicion it

Wheeler, the former England captain and hooker and now president of Leicester, predicted transfers will go over the £100,000 mark very quickly.

The EFDR wants a regulatory body to control player movements and they also want to see a fixed scale of fees introduced, although they are aware that such a ruling would be subject to English and European law. Players would be allowed a payment of between five and 10 per cent of any transfer fee. They have drawn a great deal on football's example and want a transfer deadline. When it comes to player contracts they want them to be between club and player rather than country and player.

Clubs are already considering

signing up their players to protect them from predatory clubs like Newcastle and Harlequins.

The Northampton coach, Ian McGeechan, revealed yesterday that Quins, who have just had a £50,000 offer to giant England lock Martin Bayfield turned down by the player, have not given up. "Martin has been put under quite considerable pressure with the persistence of Quins," McGeechan said. "It's a lottery at the moment with no contracts being allowed. The really vulnerable players at the moment are those playing in top sides' Second XVs. Ideally I would like to sign our players on three and five-year contracts."

Wheeler does not expect to find the EFDR in full agreement with the RFU commission but

he hopes Twickenham will consider carefully the EFDR's proposals. "We believe the structure of the RFU should look at, but we are not going to run things," he said. "We are just looking for a full say in the professional game. We want the competition structure in which the clubs are taking part to be run professionally and we want full involvement in that."

The former Scotland captain Gavin Hastings last night accused the Scottish Rugby Union of deriding their players. Hastings claims the SRU are looking to pay squad members £20,000 per man, compared to the £10,000 a man which he believes New Zealand players will earn when the Scots tour there next summer.

FA to hold St Andrew's inquiry

Football

CATHERINE RILEY

The war of words between Birmingham City and Millwall continued yesterday, with both insisting their fans were not responsible for the crowd disturbances which marred their First Division match at St Andrews.

The Football Association has confirmed it is to hold an official inquiry into Saturday's clashes – both inside and outside the ground – between fans and police, who insisted Birmingham supporters had instigated the trouble.

Superintendent Roger Conway of West Midlands Police said Birmingham fans seated above Millwall supporters "were spitting and throwing coins and even golf balls. As the game came to an end, the missiles became heavier and bits of wood were being hurled down. The Millwall fans, to their credit, did not retaliate, but at the end of the game, their patience ran out and a few began ripping up plastic seating which they threw up towards the Birmingham fans."

Birmingham, however, are adamant their fans were guilty of nothing more than over-exuberance, and rejected allegations that a Millwall substitute, Dave Savage, was punched by a City fan while warming up.

Chelsea's behind the scenes power struggle intensified yesterday as Matthew Harding, the Stamford Bridge landlord, resigned as a director of Chelsea Village, the company run by Ken Bates which owns the club.

His resignation is believed to have been brought about by an increasingly difficult relationship with Bates, Chelsea's chairman, although Harding may be about to launch a bid for Bates' controlling interest in Chelsea Vil-

lage, which would give him total ownership of Bridge affairs.

Middlesbrough are to hold talks with the English and Brazilian FAs over the club versus country conflict that is brewing over the release of Juninho. Brazil are insisting he must be made available for their Under-23 squad, which will play in the Olympic qualifying tournament in Argentina next spring. Keith Lamb, the Middlesbrough chief executive, said the club would check the rules and then hold talks with both associations in a bid to reach a compromise.

Fifa, the world governing body, and the International Olympic Committee regard the Olympic tournament as a major competition, and Fifa would be likely to rule in a national federation's favour in any club-versus-country dispute.

Phil Whelan, the Middlesbrough defender, could be out of action for six weeks after suffering a fractured jaw in training.

The Manchester United mid-fielder, Roy Keane, could be out of action until Christmas as he is due to have a hernia operation today, which means he will miss the Republic of Ireland's vital European Championship qualifier with Portugal in Lisbon on 15 November.

"Roy has struggled with this problem for some time and we realised after Saturday we couldn't put off surgery any longer," Alex Ferguson, the United manager, said. "He is devastated to miss Ireland's match, but we really have no choice."

Graham Fenton, who trained with Blackburn yesterday, is poised to complete his delayed £1.5m move from Aston Villa. Rovers wanted to check out Fenton's groin injury, which he has played with throughout his career, and they are now happy to let the transfer proceed.

On the face of it, the decision of all rugby league's governing bodies apart from Australia to

go along with Rupert Murdoch and his "global vision" will produce a wealth of goodies.

That first European Super League season, starting in March, will lead to play-offs between the top four clubs in Europe and Australia, producing a World Club Championship Final in Australia next September.

Although the rift with the Australian Rugby League means, inevitably, that the scheduled Lions tour there next summer will not take place, it is replaced, in this new blueprint, by a tour taking in Tests.

An opening day European Super League line-up that includes Sheffield Eagles at Paris, followed by a wealth of international competition; it all sounded, as even the most sceptical over the intentions of News Ltd would have to admit, absolutely splendid.

On the face of it, the decision of all rugby league's governing bodies apart from Australia to

matchies "on the weekend of..." The demands of Sky Television, the driving force behind the operation, however, point to games on Friday, Saturday, Sunday and – in the winter football slot – Monday evenings.

Apart from Paris, whose credentials were underlined by the presence of Jacques Fouroux, the Super League – at least until Newcastle and/or Cardiff are fast-tracked in at some future date – will look curiously like the current top division played in better weather.

Apart from the global element of the World Club Championship, Super League promises an annual World Nines in Fiji, an Oceania Cup

involving the South Pacific nations, a three-cornered contest for New South Wales, Queensland and New Zealand, and a Five Nations Championship eventually bringing in Ireland and Scotland as well as England, Wales and France.

Super League fixtures: 21 October, Bradford Bulls v Castleford, Halifax v London Broncos, Leeds v Warrington, Paris v Sheffield Eagles, Wigan v Oldham, Workington Town v St Helens.

OPENING MATCHES: 22 October, St Helens v Wigan, Castleford v Bradford, Halifax v London.

TESTS: 23 October, St Helens v Wigan, Castleford v Bradford, Halifax v London.

CHAMPIONSHIP FINAL (Australia): 29 October, Bradford v PNG (Port Moresby), 5 October, GB v France (Toulouse), 13 October, GB v Australia (London), 20 October, European Cup Final (London), 25 October, Super League Final (London), 27 October, GB v New Zealand (London), 3 November, GB v New Zealand (London).

Challenge Cup Final (Wembley): May, Details to follow.

INTERNATIONALS: 21 November, Australia v France (Perth), 22 November, France v Wales (Paris), 23 November, Wales (Cardiff); Scotland v Ireland (Ireland), 1 December, Ireland v France (Paris), 2 December, France v England (London), 3 December, England v Scotland (Edinburgh), 4 December, Scotland v Ireland (London), 5 December, Ireland v France (Edinburgh), 6 December, France v Wales (London), 7 December, Wales v Ireland (London), 8 December, Ireland v Scotland (Edinburgh), 9 December, Scotland v France (London), 10 December, France v England (London), 11 December, England v Wales (London), 12 December, Wales v Scotland (Edinburgh), 13 December, Scotland v Ireland (London), 14 December, Ireland v France (London), 15 December, France v England (London), 16 December, England v Wales (London), 17 December, Wales v Scotland (Edinburgh), 18 December, Scotland v Ireland (London), 19 December, Ireland v France (London), 20 December, France v England (London), 21 December, England v Wales (London), 22 December, Wales v Scotland (Edinburgh), 23 December, Scotland v Ireland (London), 24 December, Ireland v France (London), 25 December, France v England (London), 26 December, England v Wales (London), 27 December, Wales v Scotland (Edinburgh), 28 December, Scotland v Ireland (London), 29 December, Ireland v France (London), 30 December, France v England (London), 31 December, England v Wales (London), 1 January, Wales v Scotland (Edinburgh), 2 January, Scotland v Ireland (London), 3 January, Ireland v France (London), 4 January, France v England (London), 5 January, England v Wales (London), 6 January, Wales v Scotland (Edinburgh), 7 January, Scotland v Ireland (London), 8 January, Ireland v France (London), 9 January, France v England (London), 10 January, England v Wales (London), 11 January, Wales v Scotland (Edinburgh), 12 January, Scotland v Ireland (London), 13 January, Ireland v France (London), 14 January, France v England (London), 15 January, England v Wales (London), 16 January, Wales v Scotland (Edinburgh), 17 January, Scotland v Ireland (London), 18 January, Ireland v France (London), 19 January, France v England (London), 20 January, England v Wales (London), 21 January, Wales v Scotland (Edinburgh), 22 January, Scotland v Ireland (London), 23 January, Ireland v France (London), 24 January, France v England (London), 25 January, England v Wales (London), 26 January, Wales v Scotland (Edinburgh), 27 January, Scotland v Ireland (London), 28 January, Ireland v France (London), 29 January, France v England (London), 30 January, England v Wales (London), 31 January, Wales v Scotland (Edinburgh), 1 February, Scotland v Ireland (London), 2 February, Ireland v France (London), 3 February, France v England (London), 4 February, England v Wales (London), 5 February, Wales v Scotland (Edinburgh), 6 February, Scotland v Ireland (London), 7 February, Ireland v France (London), 8 February, France v England (London), 9 February, England v Wales (London), 10 February, Wales v Scotland (Edinburgh), 11 February, Scotland v Ireland (London), 12 February, Ireland v France (London), 13 February, France v England (London), 14 February, England v Wales (London), 15 February, Wales v Scotland (Edinburgh), 16 February, Scotland v Ireland (London), 17 February, Ireland v France (London), 18 February, France v England (London), 19 February, England v Wales (London), 20 February, Wales v Scotland (Edinburgh), 21 February, Scotland v Ireland (London), 22 February, Ireland v France (London), 23 February, France v England (London), 24 February, England v Wales (London), 25 February, Wales v Scotland (Edinburgh), 26 February, Scotland v Ireland (London), 27 February, Ireland v France (London), 28 February, France v England (London), 29 February, England v Wales (London), 30 February, Wales v Scotland (Edinburgh), 31 February, Scotland v Ireland (London), 1 March, Ireland v France (London), 2 March, France v England (London), 3 March, England v Wales (London), 4 March, Wales v Scotland (Edinburgh), 5 March, Scotland v Ireland (London), 6 March, Ireland v France (London), 7 March, France v England (London), 8 March, England v Wales (London), 9 March, Wales v Scotland (Edinburgh), 10 March, Scotland v Ireland (London), 11 March, Ireland v France (London), 12 March, France v England (London), 13 March, England v Wales (London), 14 March, Wales v Scotland (Edinburgh), 15 March, Scotland v Ireland (London), 16 March, Ireland v France (London), 17 March, France v England (London), 18 March, England v Wales (London), 19 March, Wales v Scotland (Edinburgh), 20 March, Scotland v Ireland (London), 21 March, Ireland v France (London), 22 March, France v England (London), 23 March, England v Wales (London), 24 March, Wales v Scotland (Edinburgh), 25 March, Scotland v Ireland (London), 26 March, Ireland v France (London), 27 March, France v England (London), 28 March, England v Wales (London), 29 March, Wales v Scotland (Edinburgh), 30 March, Scotland v Ireland (London), 31 March, Ireland v France (London), 1 April, France v England (London), 2 April, England v Wales (London), 3 April, Wales v Scotland (Edinburgh), 4 April, Scotland v Ireland (London), 5 April, Ireland v France (London), 6 April, France v England (London), 7 April, England v Wales (London), 8 April, Wales v Scotland (Edinburgh), 9 April, Scotland v Ireland (London), 10 April, Ireland v France (London), 11 April, France v England (London), 12 April, England v Wales (London), 13 April, Wales v Scotland (Edinburgh), 14 April, Scotland v Ireland (London), 15 April, Ireland v France (London), 16 April, France v England (London), 17 April, England v Wales (London), 18 April, Wales v Scotland (Edinburgh), 19 April, Scotland v Ireland (London), 20 April, Ireland v France (London), 21 April, France v England (London), 22 April, England v Wales (London), 23 April, Wales v Scotland (Edinburgh), 24 April, Scotland v Ireland (London), 25 April, Ireland v France (London), 26 April, France v England (London), 27 April, England v Wales (London), 28 April, Wales v Scotland (Edinburgh), 29 April, Scotland v Ireland (London), 30 April, Ireland v France (London), 1 May, France v England (London), 2 May, England v Wales (London), 3 May, Wales v Scotland (Edinburgh), 4 May, Scotland v Ireland (London), 5 May, Ireland v France (London), 6 May, France v England (London), 7 May, England v Wales (London), 8 May, Wales v Scotland (Edinburgh), 9 May, Scotland v Ireland (London), 10 May, Ireland v France (London), 11 May, France v England (London), 12 May, England v Wales (London), 13 May, Wales v Scotland (Edinburgh), 14 May, Scotland v Ireland (London), 15 May, Ireland v France (London), 16 May, France v England (London), 17 May, England v Wales (London), 18 May, Wales v Scotland (Edinburgh), 19 May, Scotland v Ireland (London), 20 May, Ireland v France (London), 21 May, France v England (London), 22 May, England v Wales (London), 23 May, Wales v Scotland (Edinburgh), 24 May, Scotland v Ireland (London), 25 May, Ireland v France (London), 26 May, France v England (London), 27 May, England v Wales (London), 28 May, Wales v Scotland (Edinburgh), 29 May, Scotland v Ireland (London), 30 May, Ireland v France (London), 1 June, France v England (London), 2 June, England v Wales (London), 3 June, Wales v Scotland (Edinburgh), 4 June, Scotland v Ireland (London), 5 June, Ireland v France (London), 6 June, France v England (London), 7 June, England v Wales (London), 8 June, Wales v Scotland (Edinburgh), 9 June, Scotland v Ireland (London), 10 June, Ireland v France (London), 11 June, France v England (London), 12 June, England v Wales (London), 13 June, Wales v Scotland (Edinburgh), 14 June, Scotland v Ireland (London), 15 June, Ireland v France (London), 16 June, France v England (London), 17 June, England v Wales (London), 18 June, Wales v Scotland (Edinburgh), 19 June, Scotland v Ireland (London), 20 June, Ireland v France (London), 21 June, France v England (London), 22 June, England v Wales (London), 23 June, Wales v Scotland (Edinburgh), 24 June, Scotland v Ireland (London), 25 June, Ireland v France (London), 26 June, France v England (London), 27 June, England v Wales (London), 28 June, Wales v Scotland (Edinburgh), 29 June, Scotland v Ireland (London), 30 June, Ireland v France (London), 1 July, France v England (London), 2 July, England v Wales (London), 3 July, Wales v Scotland (Edinburgh), 4 July, Scotland v Ireland (London), 5 July, Ireland v France (London), 6 July, France v England (London), 7 July, England v Wales (London), 8 July, Wales v Scotland (Edinburgh), 9 July, Scotland v Ireland (London), 10 July, Ireland v France (London), 11 July, France v England (London), 12 July, England v Wales (London), 13 July, Wales v Scotland (Edinburgh), 14 July, Scotland v Ireland (London), 15 July, Ireland v France (London), 16 July, France v England (London), 17 July, England v Wales (London), 18 July, Wales v Scotland (Edinburgh), 19 July, Scotland v Ireland (London), 20 July, Ireland v France (London), 21 July, France v England (London), 22 July, England v Wales (London), 23 July, Wales v Scotland (Edinburgh), 24 July, Scotland v Ireland (London), 25 July, Ireland v France (London), 26 July, France v England (London), 27 July, England v Wales (London), 28 July, Wales v Scotland (Edinburgh), 29 July, Scotland v Ireland (London), 30 July, Ireland v France (London), 1 August, France v England (London), 2 August, England v Wales (London), 3 August, Wales v Scotland (Edinburgh), 4 August, Scotland v Ireland (London), 5 August, Ireland v France (London), 6 August, France v England (London), 7 August, England v Wales (London), 8 August, Wales v Scotland (Edinburgh), 9 August, Scotland v Ireland (London), 10 August, Ireland v France (London), 11 August, France v England (London), 12 August, England v Wales (London), 13 August, Wales v Scotland (Edinburgh), 14 August, Scotland v Ireland (London), 15 August, Ireland v France (London), 16 August, France v England (London), 17 August, England v Wales (London), 18 August, Wales v Scotland (Edinburgh), 19 August, Scotland v Ireland (London), 20 August, Ireland v France (London), 21 August, France v England (London), 22 August, England v Wales (London), 23 August, Wales v Scotland (Edinburgh), 24 August, Scotland v Ireland (London), 25 August, Ireland v France (London), 26 August, France v England (London), 27 August, England v Wales (London), 28 August, Wales v Scotland (Edinburgh), 29 August, Scotland v Ireland (London), 30 August, Ireland v France (London), 1 September, France v England (London), 2 September, England v Wales (London), 3 September, Wales v Scotland (Edinburgh), 4 September, Scotland v Ireland (London), 5 September, Ireland v France (London), 6 September, France v England (London), 7 September, England v Wales (London), 8 September, Wales v Scotland (Edinburgh), 9 September, Scotland v Ireland (London), 10 September, Ireland v France (London), 11 September, France v England (London), 12 September, England v Wales (London), 13 September, Wales v Scotland (Edinburgh), 14 September, Scotland v Ireland (London), 15 September, Ireland v France (London), 16 September, France v England (London), 17 September, England v Wales (London), 18 September, Wales v Scotland (Edinburgh), 19 September, Scotland v Ireland (London), 20 September, Ireland v France (London), 21 September, France v England (London), 22 September, England v Wales (London), 23 September, Wales v Scotland (Edinburgh), 24 September, Scotland v Ireland (London), 25 September, Ireland v France (London), 26 September, France v England (London), 27 September, England v Wales (London), 28 September, Wales v Scotland (Edinburgh), 29 September, Scotland v Ireland (London), 30 September, Ireland v France (London), 1 October, France v England (London), 2 October, England v Wales (London), 3 October, Wales v Scotland (Edinburgh), 4 October, Scotland v Ireland (London), 5 October, Ireland v France (London), 6 October, France v England (London), 7 October, England v Wales (London), 8 October, Wales v Scotland (Edinburgh), 9 October, Scotland v Ireland (London), 10 October, Ireland v France (London), 11 October, France v England (London), 12 October, England v Wales (London), 13 October, Wales v Scotland (Edinburgh), 14 October